

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 224

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



OPINION METER

This week's poll:

In a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, what's your level of confidence that the Legislature will pass a budget before the Sept. 30 deadline?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS



FedEx Corp. says the global economy is stalling, and it's going to get worse next year. **► PAGE 13**

FOCUS



The U.S. government is in the thorny position of protecting Nakoula Bassey Nakoula's free speech rights and looking out for his safety even while condemning his message. **► PAGE 16**

LIFE & STYLE



The aggressive legal strategy over topless photos of Britain's likely future queen is the first salvo in what could be a decades-long tug-of-war over their family's privacy. **► PAGE 17**

CNMI LeakSource 'leaks' arrest warrant vs Saipan mayor. **PAGE 2**
Fund says it has sufficient money to pay all refunds. **PAGE 3**

CHC faces loss of Medicare funding

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A severe sanction of "immediate jeopardy" was slapped on the Commonwealth Health Center by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services which now threatens its funding support from the federal agency.

» **Hospital has 23 days to comply or lose federal funding**
» **Medicare team cites non-functioning defibrillators**

The CNMI's lone public hospital was sanctioned on the first day of the Medicare team's five-day inspection of the facility.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board chair Joaquin Torres disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that the serious sanction was imposed Tuesday by the

visiting Medicare representatives who are expected to complete the survey visit this Friday.

Once an "immediate jeopardy" status is given to a facility, the healthcare provider has 23 days to get into compliance before funding is cut. Immediate jeopardy

See CHC on Page 4

BUDGET PANEL OFF TARGET BY \$14M

Govt prepares for the worst: Shutdown

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that with only 10 days to go before the Sept. 30 deadline and still without a "compromise" budget bill, the Fitial administration is now preparing for the worst which is a repeat of a partial government shutdown in 2010 that forced some 1,400 public servants temporarily out of jobs.

Inos said a shutdown contingency plan is underway, wherein only critical government employees will be allowed to report for work starting on

See SHUTDOWN on Page 4



GOOD SAMARITAN

Kanis Sinounou, center, holds the plaque of appreciation presented to him yesterday at the Office of the Governor's conference room by government leaders and tourism industry officials for his bravery and heroism as he prevented a robbery in Garapan against two Russian tourists last Sept. 10.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

See story on Page 6

'Municipality has no authority to pass law allowing gambling'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has ruled that a municipality does not have the authority to pass a law allowing gambling.

In the high court's opinion released to the media yesterday, the justices answered in the negative to a certified question whether a local law, enacted

to Article II, Section 6 of the CNMI Constitution by a senatorial district of the legislature, is a Commonwealth law under Article XXI of the NMI Constitution.

A local law cannot set aside the ban on gambling found in the CNMI Constitution, said the Supreme Court's opinion



Manglona

issued on Tuesday by associate justice John A. Manglona, and justices pro tem Perry B. Inos and Herbert D. Soll.

The justices explained that under the CNMI Constitution, the gambling prohibition may be set aside either through the initiative process or by the Commonwealth Legislature's

passage of a law allowing a particular gambling activity.

Reps. Joseph M. Palacios (R-Saipan) and Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) filed last January before the CNMI Supreme Court the certified question whether or not a local law enacted by the Saipan Northern Island Legislative Delegation is considered a Commonwealth law.

See GAMBLING on Page 4



NEW! Plans. NEW! Speeds
» SAME Dependability!

Saipan: 682-4ITE (4486) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net



SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

*Terms and conditions apply

Local

CNMI LeakSource 'leaks' arrest warrant vs Saipan mayor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A new website called CNMI LeakSource, seeking to promote transparency and accountability in government, posted yesterday an anonymously leaked copy of a Jan. 13, 2012 bench warrant for Saipan Mayor Donald Flores for failing to appear in court on Dec. 7, 2011 in connection with unpaid debts to Dollar Rent-A-Car.

But this early, CNMI LeakSource's creation has been drawing varied reactions, including "caution" on the type of information being leaked and posted online.

In the case of a leaked copy of the bench warrant, the Saipan mayor said yesterday he will be paying today the \$300 cash bail to the Clerk of Court.

"I hope this will not destroy all the many good things me and the Saipan Mayor's Office have done for the community," Flores told *Saipan Tribune*.

The bench warrant, signed by Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos, remains in force one year from its date, unless earlier quashed or vacated.

CNMI LeakSource can be accessed at <http://cnmileaksource.webuda.com/Home/>.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that "accountability and transparency in government is the total opposite

of anonymous sources."

He said the administration does not validate or dignify anonymous information circulated via the Internet or through other forms of media.

"In order for information to be adequately validated or viewed as credible, the source too, must be willing to exercise transparency so that their message is put forth while being accountable for it. The use of anonymous sources undermines the trustworthiness of an industry that already generates too much mistrust," Demapan said when asked for comment.

Demapan also said the issuance of bench warrants is a function of the courts, and bench warrants do not get sent to the governor so that he can talk to the subject to surrender himself or appear in court.

"There is a judicial process that governs the issuance of bench warrants. The administration does not have any role in that process," he added.

Glen Hunter, a concerned citizen, said he is a believer in "principled leaking" but said "certain precautions should be taken when leaking information or furthering leaked information."

Hunter, who visited the website only after media inquiry yesterday, said "principled leaking," to him, means that information that is of value to society as a whole should not be kept secret for the personal gain of a

few or at the expense of others.

"Those involved, such as this newly created site, should ensure that the material is properly vetted or checked out. The vetting will ensure that it is authentic and factual and that proper care is taken as to not endanger anyone's personal safety (especially innocent bystanders) or create any ethical issues. Should there be personal safety or ethical concerns, simply redacting portions rather than not leaking the information may suffice," he said.

CNMI LeakSource, in its website, says they "will only be posting leaks with sufficient evidence (you must send in any supporting documents, files, and/or images with your submission), to ensure that everything we put out is completely factual."

Florida-based human rights activist and former CNMI teacher Wendy Doromal, in her blog Unhead No More, said "CNMI LeakSource is the work of five concerned CNMI citizens."

"In a place where corruption, cover-ups, back-door deals, and sole-source contracts are common place, this is surely a welcome site. Any CNMI citizen can submit documents completely anonymously to the CNMI LeakSource," she said.

Lawmakers asked about the website yesterday said they have yet to visit the website, reserving comments at this time.

'Prime example'

Hunter said a prime example of

"principled leaking" would be the past release of an Office of the Public Auditor report that was released by a "spnwikileaks" individual.

The Fitial administration suppressed the release of that OPA report.

Hunter said that OPA report was factual and contained information that was of value to the society as a whole.

"The information was being withheld to protect the former (now fugitive) attorney general Edward T. Buckingham and Mr. Fitial. A concerned party was able to access that document and bring it to light. I believe that principled leaking played an important part in the path to justice that we see unfolding today," he said.

The House minority bloc introduced a resolution impeaching Fitial for 16 allegations of felony, corruption and neglect of duty.

Among those issues are connected to the subject of the OPA report on the former AG's hosting of a "meet and greet" for a delegate candidate. The impeachment resolution states that Fitial failed to discharge his duties by not removing Buckingham even after OPA found violations.

Hunter, however, "cautioned" the new site owners/moderators that "when fighting against public corruption, it is very easy to become what you are fighting against."

"I would hope that this new



Flores

site does not allow just any rumor or gossip to make its way into the public domain as 'proven' leaks without due diligence on the part of the site owner," he added.

In her blog, Doromal said "CNMI LeakSource was founded because of the obvious lack of transparency when it comes to our government officials and their business partners. We believe that certain corrupt individuals are only able to continue their corruption because the public is largely unaware of their acts."

"In an effort to finally put an end to corruption in the CNMI, we launched CNMI LeakSource as a way for any-

one in the islands to take part in whistleblower activities with the safety and comfort of guaranteed anonymity; thus removing any chances of repercussion in the future, and removing any fears of retribution that would normally hold someone back from releasing something that the public deserves to know," Doromal said, quoting CNMI LeakSource.

It adds that the site is part of the movement for public transparency as established by Wikileaks, but it is also precursor to a much larger idea called Project Mayhem 2012, which is being handled by Anonymous and will launch in December of this year.

Talks could halt FICA taxes for Filipino, Korean workers and their employers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ongoing negotiations between the CNMI government and the U.S. Department of Treasury could lead to exemptions in federal tax payments for Filipino and Korean workers with transitional Commonwealth-only worker status, along with their employers already burdened with federal immigration uncertainties and financial hardships.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that the CNMI's withdrawal of its lawsuit against U.S. Treasury and the Internal Revenue Services opened the door for both parties to engage in "active discussions" that he said could lead to the tax exemptions for these foreign workers and their employers.

"I believe it's going to work out okay," Inos said in an interview yesterday at the recognition ceremony for Good Samaritan and Saipan resident Kanis Sinounou at the governor's office.

Inos pointed out, however, that there's no agreement reached yet.

Carlito Marquez, a worker's advocate, said yesterday that the exemption of Filipino and Korean workers from paying FICA taxes will be a "big relief."

Marquez said there have been workers with FICA tax deductions since early this year that have already gone back home but were not able to refund. He said by stopping the deductions soon, these workers would have more money in their pockets, and their employers don't have to incur additional expenses.

"Hopefully it will happen soon. Many are concerned that because of uncertainties in immigration, they would be forced to leave the CNMI and do not benefit from the FICA tax that's being deducted from their paychecks," he said.

The CNMI government's previous lawsuit said that the extension of FICA taxes on Filipino and Korean workers could result in the imposition of \$24 million annually in "illegal taxes" on the CNMI economy.

FICA stands for Federal Insurance Contribution Act.

FICA taxes include U.S. Social Security and Medicare. Both employers and employees share the cost of paying these taxes.

Inos recently met in Washington, D.C. with U.S. Treasury Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy Mark Mazur on the FICA exemption for Filipino and Korean workers.

He said there will be follow-up discussions.

Inos said once an agreement is reached that exempts Filipino and Korean workers from paying FICA taxes, "they have to file for an application for refund, and that the funds will have to be refunded."

This application for refund has to be filed with IRS.

"We're fast-tracking it because it's a drain in the resources especially for the employers. For the employees, it translates into benefits... at some future date. But for the employers, if it's not an appropriate assessment then that's money that they cannot reinvest in the economy and so it would have to be addressed expeditiously," Inos added.

An employee earning the CNMI minimum wage of \$5.05 an hour and works 40 hours per week for 52 weeks in a year would have 2,080 hours or \$10,504 in gross income. If he is subject to a FICA tax rate of 7.65 percent, he would incur an annual liability of \$803.

An employer paying an employee \$10,504 per year who is subject to FICA liability of 7.65 percent would incur \$803 in annual tax liability for the wages paid to that employee.

2012 DISCONNECTION DATES

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of these business days

January 20 • February 27 • March 20
April 20 • May 23 • June 20 • July 20
August 22 • September 20 • October 23
November 21 • December 20

will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on these days. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before these dates.

**THIS WILL BE THE
ONLY NOTIFICATION
IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE**

You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **these dates**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service,
Please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or
Visit any IT&E CS Center nearest you.



To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:

SHELL Service Stations - up to 4:00pm
Chalan Laulau/Tinian/Rota Office - up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza - up to 6:00pm
Online payment - up to 9:00pm

TASTE OF INDIA

AUTHENTIC INDIAN CUISINE

Experience our new location with Authentic Indian Buffet

Lunch Buffet
\$9.95

Saturday Dinner Buffet
\$11.95
6pm to 10pm

Menu: Tandoori Chicken, Beef Roast Masala, Chicken Curry, Dal Makhani, Shabnum Curry, Pumpkin Curry, Masala Papad, Garden Fresh Salad, Seasonal Fruits, Iced Tea & many more

Located in Garapan, across Godfather's Bar & Johnny's Bar
RESERVATION RECOMMENDED • TEL: 2338448 OR 9899367

Fund says it has sufficient money to pay all refunds

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NMI Retirement Fund acting administrator Lillian Pangelinan yesterday assured the public that the agency has sufficient money to pay all members who want to refund their contributions, but admitted that the exo-

odus of the program's members is disadvantageous to the pension system.

As of Sept. 14, Fund assets is estimated at \$223 million including the \$113 million reserved by the court for active members. Pangelinan disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that all refunds will be paid out from

this court-reserved account.

The Fund has an estimated 3,000 active members on the program, or those government employees remitting under the defined contribution plan. For non-active members and retirees, there are also about 3,000 in the defined benefit plan.

As the agency closed office 5pm yesterday, Pangelinan said a total of 1,096 refund applications have been submitted.

"There is sufficient money in the Retirement Fund assets to pay all active and inactive employees their employee

contributions. The balance of the Fund's investments as of 9/14/12 is \$223 million. The refund of employee of contributions will come from the \$113 million reserved by Judge [Kenneth] Govendo's Order," said Pangelinan, adding that there is no deadline for applying for refund.

She cautioned members that there is no need to rush to apply to terminate membership and obtain a refund. Members, she said, should carefully consider their options.

According to Pangelinan, termination of membership by DB members will be extremely

disadvantageous to the Fund because it will "reduce a steady inflow of funds" coming from both employee and employer contributions that will result in less investment earnings from

these inflows.

Fund's assets are invested in international markets to earn and thus, pay for the pension and benefits of members.

See FUND on Next Page

Man gets 5 years for choking wife with an electric cord

A man who accused his wife of having an affair and strangled her with an electric cord has entered a guilty plea and slapped with a five-year jail term.

Daniel Sablan Jr., 29, signed a plea agreement and pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon, disturbing the peace, and violating an order of protection.

In exchange for the guilty plea, the Office of the Attorney General dismissed the remaining seven charges.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo accepted the plea agreement and Sablan's guilty plea last week.

In a written order issued on Tuesday, Govendo sentenced Sablan to a total of five years in prison, with credit for 57 days that the defendant had already spent in jail.

After completing the jail time, the defendant will be placed on five years of probation.

Sablan will be required to complete and pay all applica-

ble fees for anger management counseling, alcohol counseling, and any other recommended counseling by the treatment provider or the Office of Adult Probation upon his release from prison.

The defendant is prohibited from possessing or consuming any alcoholic beverages during the entirety of his probation.

Govendo ordered the defendant to pay a \$1,000 fine, \$119.46 in restitution, plus probation and court costs.

The judge also required Sablan to perform 200 hours of community work service.

According to the plea deal, on May 4, 2012 on Saipan, Sablan after consuming alcohol and while under court's order of protection, choked his wife with an electric cord.

The choking was done in a manner that could have caused the wife's death or serious bodily injury. The defendant's actions disturbed the peace of his

See MAN on Next Page

Teenager, juvenile allegedly beat up, rob woman inside her house

Police arrested on Tuesday late afternoon a male teenager who along with a male juvenile allegedly beat up and robbed a woman last May 28 at her residence in Chalan Kanoa.

Joshua D. Limes, 19, was arrested on charges of robbery, conspiracy, aggravated assault and battery, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The victim, a Chinese woman, had some red marks on the neck and face, and her pants were dirty on the knee portion when a police officer responded to the scene.

Limes was set for a bail hearing yesterday afternoon before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

A \$16,250 cash bail was initially imposed for the defendant's temporary release.

Detective Israel De Leon stated in his report that, on May 28, 2012 at 7:28pm, a police officer was dispatched to a store in Chalan Kanoa for a robbery incident.

When the officer arrived at the store, the victim approached and stated that someone had taken her bag.

The victim told the officer that when she got off from work at Shany Laundry in Chalan Kanoa at 7:10pm, she walked home.

After three minutes she reached her house. When she opened the house's gate and took a step inside, one suspect grabbed her and started choking her.

The victim yelled for help, but was not loud enough for someone to hear. One suspect then grabbed her purse.

The victim identified the male juvenile who allegedly choked her.

The officer conducted his interview with some persons at Shany Laundry, leading to the arrest of the juvenile who is residing just across the establishment.

The victim identified the juvenile, prompting the officer to detain him at the Juvenile Detention Facility in Kagman.

Detective De Leon, however, stated that on Sept. 5, 2012, the juvenile in the presence of his lawyer provided a statement to him.

The juvenile identified Limes as his companion who actually choked and punched the victim.

The juvenile confessed they split the money taken from the victim and that he got his share of \$3,000.

The juvenile claimed that Limes then burned the purse. (Ferdie de la Torre)

» **Admits exodus of members disadvantageous to program**
» **So far 1,096 file refund applications**

Hana Health Massage

Suffering from back pain? We can help!

\$15.00/hr
Full back massage with medicine

Oil Body Massage \$15.00/hour

Foot Massage \$15.00/hour

Acupuncture Cupping \$10.00

**OPEN DAILY:
11am to 2am**

1st Floor, MSV Building, Chalan Kanoa • Tel: 285-2010

NEW! Plans. NEW! Speeds
» SAME Dependability!

IT&E has the SPEED YOU NEED

BASIC DSL

\$50 PER MONTH

1.5 Mbps UP TO

DOWNLOAD SPEED

512 Kbps

UPLOAD SPEED

Download now Cancel

ADVANTAGE DSL

\$85 PER MONTH

2.5 Mbps UP TO

DOWNLOAD SPEED

1.0 Mbps

UPLOAD SPEED

Download now Cancel

PREMIUM DSL

\$95 PER MONTH

3.0 Mbps UP TO

DOWNLOAD SPEED

1.0 Mbps

UPLOAD SPEED

Download now Cancel

EXTREME DSL

\$135 PER MONTH

4.0 Mbps UP TO

DOWNLOAD SPEED

1.0 Mbps

UPLOAD SPEED

Download now Cancel



*Some Conditions Apply, customers need landline to activate DSL.

IT&E
Life in Motion

682-4ITE (4483)
www.ite.net
customer@itehq.net

Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483)
Chalan Kanoa Customer Care Ofc. • Wireless Express Center (TSL Plaza)

Impeachment panel subpoenas CUC officials on \$190M power deal

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Special Committee on Impeachment chair Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) subpoenaed yesterday Commonwealth Utilities Corp. officials to appear as witnesses on Friday morning in connection with the \$190.8-million, 25-year power purchase agreement, even as the panel

continues to work on the rest of the subpoenas in connection with other issues such as the release of a federal inmate to give Gov. Benigno R. Fitial a massage in January 2010.

Deleon Guerrero said CUC acting executive director Alan Fletcher, chief financial officer Charles Warren, and power plant operations manager Wallon Young were requested to appear before the impeachment panel

at 9am on Friday.

These CUC officials were subpoenaed ahead of the others on the list because of Fletcher's anticipated off-island travel, Deleon Guerrero said.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), meanwhile, said yesterday he will suggest issuing subpoena to the governor's former masseuse that was removed temporarily from prison and brought to the governor's house in

Gualo Rai in January 2010.

The impeachment committee will finalize today the subpoenas to dozens of officials and private individuals—including department heads and representatives, corrections officers, police officers, attorneys, FBI agents, and a reporter and her partner to testify in the ongoing review of a resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

The resolution lists 16 articles of impeachment against Fitial for felony, corruption, and neglect of duty,

three of which were already adopted by the committee.

The panel will also subpoena dozens of documents, including copies of contracts, financial records, government surveillance videos, KSPN 2 video recordings, and investigation reports.

Seven of the eight committee members were present yesterday. Only vice speaker Felicidad Ogomoro (Cov-Saipan) was excused, because she was at the meeting of the conference committee on the 2013 budget.

SHUTDOWN

From Page 1

Oct. 1 unless a budget is passed and signed into law by Sept. 30.

As of yesterday, the joint House and Senate budget panel was still off track by some \$14 million, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

This means their calculations have already reached some \$128 million when the government's projected revenue available for operations is only \$114 million for fiscal year 2013.

While the committee has agreed

on increasing the budgets for some departments compared to what the House and/or Senate originally proposed, the more difficult part is identifying the agencies whose budgets have to be cut.

"Every time you increase somebody's budget, you are also cutting somebody else's budget," said Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).

Taimanao, the lead conferee from the Senate, said the joint budget panel is trying its best to pare down the spending cap at \$114 million though it has been tough.

She also said it should be standard procedure to have a government shutdown contingency plan in place, though she's hoping a budget will be timely passed so that there won't be a need to put the shutdown plan in motion.

Race against time

Inos said the administration has learned a lot from the 2010 shutdown experience so it expects a more efficient and practical listing of government employees that will be exempted in the event of another shutdown.

"What we know is that we're preparing for the worst, and that is that we're

putting together plans for a possible shutdown unless we see a budget. It's still possible that the budget that's passed by the Legislature may not be a workable budget for us, which could mean a veto," Inos said in an interview at the recognition ceremony for Good Samaritan and Saipan resident Kanis Sinounou at the governor's office yesterday.

Inos said in 2010, the administration thought that the shutdown would only for a couple of days.

"So that was an easy thing to do. Basically shut down everything, except for the critical. But it went beyond the third day to about a week and a half and at that time you have to start putting people back in for the second tier. So that's why we have a plan A, plan B, plan C. If it goes for a month, we'll probably...I hope there's no shutdown," he said.

Inos said the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. may not be affected if there is a shutdown because most of its funding source is not direct subsidy from the general fund.

The conference committee, however, previously agreed to double the amount of direct subsidy to CHC, from the Senate and House's proposed \$2 million-plus, to \$5 million.

4 percent

In addition, the conference committee on the 2013 budget bill has yet to identify funding source for the 4 percent employer contribution for government employees who will remain with the defined contribution plan.

Inos said it was the Legislature's idea to put that additional 4 percent govern-

ment contribution, so the administration expects this is covered in the 2013 budget bill.

Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), however, said it will be difficult to budget for this 4 percent employer contribution for DC plan members if there is still no available data on the number of employees remaining with the plan.

Basa suggests that the budget be passed to meet the deadline and have it amended later on when the DC plan members have already been accounted for.

Sticking points

Taimanao said the conferees have already agreed at least in principle to cross off the list the Senate's proposed \$300,000 in retroactive pay for the third senatorial district of Saipan since they have already been paid off years back.

But the Senate's proposed \$300,000 in retroactive salary for the first senatorial district of Rota is becoming a contentious issue. House conferees do not necessarily want such appropriation.

"I will continue to push for the \$300,000 retroactive salary payment because those employees deserve to get paid," Taimanao said, adding that this is only for partial payment of the estimated \$1.2 million in central government obligations to Rota employees under Public Law 7-31.

The Tinian leadership, meanwhile, has taken it upon itself to pay the retroactive salary of Tinian employees using local appropriations mostly from casino operations.

GAMBLING

From Page 1

Palacios and Yumul brought the certified question after Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman last Jan. 19 dismissed for lack of standing Palacios' lawsuit against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial over the governor's veto of the controversial Saipan casino bill.

In their stipulated statements of facts, the two lawmakers said they are following Wiseman's directive and seek redress to the certified question posed by this petition.

Palacios, as chairman of SNILD's Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations, recommended passage of House Local Bill 17-44 that seeks to legalize casino gaming by exempting Saipan from the Commonwealth-wide prohibition on gambling.

SNILD passed the bill by a majority vote on Aug. 26, 2011.

Yumul voted against the passage of the bill, stating that a local law enacted by SNILD is not a Commonwealth law as required in Article 21 of the NMI Constitution.

Fitial subsequently vetoed the bill.

In the high court's decision, the justices said whether a local law is a Commonwealth law under Article XXI is a matter of constitutional interpretation.

The justices said when interpreting a constitutional provision, the court may also rely upon committee recommendations, constitutional transcripts, and other relevant constitutional history.

The justices said the text of Article XXI, when viewed through the lens of this court's principles of constitutional interpretation, indicates that the term "Commonwealth law," found in the

first disjunctive clause, does not include all categories of law in the CNMI.

The justices said the legislative history of Article XXI thus indicates that the phrase "Commonwealth law" in Article XXI does not include local laws enacted pursuant to Section 6.

The justices said the Analysis of the CNMI Constitution establishes that "Commonwealth law" includes local laws only for the purpose of determining a conflict between laws enacted by the Commonwealth Legislature and laws enacted by a municipal council.

The Analysis, the justices said, does not purport to define "Commonwealth law" for all purposes, nor does it elucidate the meaning of the term "Commonwealth law" in Article XXI.

"Therefore, the Analysis does not assist us in answering this certified question," they said.

CHC

From Page 1

ardly indicates that the provider's non-compliance with one or more requirements of participation in the Medicare and Medicaid program has or is "likely to cause serious injury, harm, impairment, or death."

Torres revealed that the sanction was placed following an inspection of the key units of the hospital where surveyors uncovered non-functioning defibrillators and the lack of backup machine at the facility. Defibrillators are electronic devices that treat life-threatening heartbeat irregularities.

The chairman disclosed that the team, upon completion of the visit on Friday, will conduct an exit conference with the corporation officials where observations will be relayed to the providers, including additional citations or deficiencies if any. He said "findings" are normal in every survey done in hospitals.

Torres acknowledged the seriousness of the status, but is confident that the problem will be immediately rectified before the 23-day deadline and the hospital will get back in good standing.

If CHC does not meet CMS standards, the Medicare program will halt payments to the hospital for inpatient

treatment occurring on or after that date. Each year, the public hospital receives from \$8 million to \$10 million in funding from Medicare.

Saipan Tribune learned that immediate jeopardy is among the statuses issued by Medicare in their survey visits. Immediate jeopardy results from immediate threats to life and safety and this finding requires immediate response to avoid serious threats to the regulatory or accreditation status of the organization. Other sanctions include Medicare termination, preliminary denial of accreditation, and conditional accreditation, among others.

Medicare is keeping its surveys unannounced and their timing unpredictable. This gives the agency doing the surveying greater ability to obtain valid information.

It was in January 2010 when Medicare placed CHC in jeopardy status after it issued 112-page statement of deficiencies majority covers the nursing services. A corrective action plan was then submitted followed by a re-survey visit to validate the report. On the same year, Medicare lifted the jeopardy status at the facility after implementing action plans.

According to Torres, the serious deficiency uncovered this week by Medicare—on the lack of defibrilla-

tors—was a result of the corporation's budget constraint that affected not only the important supplies in the hospital but the replacement and maintenance of medical equipment.

He said yesterday, CEO Juan N. Babauta met with the Marianas Public Land Trust on the \$7-million line of credit for the hospital. Torres said, the corporation will make sure the non-functioning defibrillators will be replaced immediately. It was early this year when the corporation, due to budget challenges, cut the contract of the vendor that maintains the hospital equipment, mostly are dilapidated.

As of 6pm last night, Torres said hospital administrator Karen Buettner is working on corrective measures at the hospital.

The Medicare team arrived on island last Monday from Guam and started to meet with officials and staff of the health corporation. Yesterday, inspections continued at the hospital units, according to staff and employees.

Among the visiting group members are Edgardo Japitano and Renie Soria, according to hospital staffers. The team also briefly met with CEO Babauta. This week's inspection serves as a follow-up visit from Medicare to validate the hospital's progress reports earlier submitted by CHC.

MAN

From Page 3

wife and mother-in-law.

Detective Catherine Pangelinan stated in her report that, a police officer responded at 12:54am to a house in As Matuis where a caller reported a disturbance.

Pangelinan said when the officer went inside the house, he observed the victim crying and holding her throat with her left hand.

The officer noticed that the victim was having a hard time breathing as

she had red line marks with scratches and cuts around her neck.

The victim also had blood spots on lower arm area and her upper lip was swelling. Medics later came and provided the victim with oxygen treatment.

Pangelinan said during an interview with the officer, the victim narrated how Sablan beat her up and choked her with the electric cord.

The victim managed to shout for help. A few seconds later, her mother opened the door and stopped Sablan from strangling the victim. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

FUND

From Page 3

"If all active members refund, the Fund will eventually be 100-percent reliant on the liquidation of investments to cover semi-monthly pension payouts. There is concern about how the liabilities to those currently retired, disabled or receiving a survivor benefit will be satisfied," admitted Pangelinan yesterday.

Since the agency started receiving refund applications on Monday, the acting administrator said they noted a dramatic increase in the applications. The agency, on its third day of receiving applications yesterday, has already posted over a thou-

sand refund applications.

"The influx of applications being submitted and the foot traffic at the Fund has increased dramatically. Over the last couple of days, about a dozen people were already waiting in line before 7:30am. Secondly, a portion of the Fund's investments will be required to be liquidated in order to pay out the contributions aside from those amounts already being liquidated to pay semi-monthly pensions," she said, reminding the public that office hours is from 8am to 5pm each day.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial recently signed into law Public Law 17-82, which addresses the many concerns of active members.

Babauta calling for Aguon's resignation from corp. board

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta wants the Tinian representative to the corporation board, Anthony Aguon, to quit his position; claiming that someone more level-headed and with more realistic view of reality deserves the seat than the incumbent member whom he also accused of employing personal and political bias.

Babauta's statement yesterday came in reaction to Aguon's letter to the board Monday where he described the CEO's decisions as not only irresponsible but unacceptable in addition to practicing non-transparency to board members.

Babauta said he was not surprised when the board member lashed out against him in such manner because, according to him, Aguon has personal and political bias as a member of the board.

"Mr. Aguon should resign and be replaced by someone with a more level head and more realistic view of reality and stop the old political spoil system," Babauta said. He revealed that from the first day Aguon sat on the board, the member has done nothing but complain why the corporation cannot hire two doctors to cover Tinian even if the corporation can't afford it. Babauta said it is something the corporation would do in a heartbeat if funding is available.

The CEO added that Aguon has personal bias because the contract of Aguon's uncle was not renewed by the corporation. The CEO said the one-year contract has ended and that upset the board member.

"Board member Aguon is upset because it was not renewed. It was a recommendation by midlevel management and I signed off on the contract conclusion," said Babauta, adding that times are hard and economically and financially, the CNMI is different from what it was several years ago.

The CEO claimed that Aguon doesn't want to accept reality and the only board member who opposed the reduction-in-force without offering no explanation to his vote other than to appear politically correct.

Aguon, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, described the CEO's claims against him as "ridiculous" and a "distraction" on the real issues about the corporation: the lack of solid and concrete business plan for the organization and the "irresponsible" decisions made by the CEO on hiring doctor for Tinian Health Center.

The board member admitted that he was the only one who voted against the RIF, but he justified that he opposed the measure until a desk audit or assessment is conducted by management to determine which areas and who among employees will be let go. This was not performed.

Aguon refused to comment on claims that he has personal and political bias because of the non-renewal of one of his relative's contract on Tinian. "For me, that claim is ridiculous because what I am doing now is part of my fiduciary duty as a board member to ensure that our people will continue to receive the healthcare that they need. In this small island like ours, every one is related to one another. I am not the one playing politics here."

For the board member, Babauta should focus his response on the "real concerns" of the corporation, rather than pointing to personal issues.

Aguon accused the CEO of making an irresponsible decision again when Babauta entered a contract for a Tinian doctor without following the proper procurement procedures. As a result, Aguon said the contract was determined invalid and not legal by the Attorney General's Office. This, he said, was the same situation when the CEO entered a contract with International Consulting Services which was also found illegal by the AGO and was later terminated. At present, the member said a special contract for a physician for Tinian is in effect. The doctor provides services only on certain days in the week.

"Will I resign? Let us members talk about that in the next board meeting," he added.

Meantime, board chair Joaquin Torres told *Saipan Tribune* that a meeting will be called soon to discuss the issues raised by the board member.



Babauta

» **CEO says board member upset because of uncle non-renewal**
» **Aguon says Babauta's claims ridiculous, meant to distract from issue**

Applications for Farm Bill programs due Oct. 19

HONOLULU—USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service reminds potential applicants to contact their local NRCS office soon to find out if they are eligible for the agency's most common Farm Bill programs (Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, Agricultural Management Assistance Program, and Conservation Stewardship Program).

Applications for the first ranking period of 2013 are due at NRCS offices by close of business on Oct. 19, 2012. Applications for the second ranking period are due on Dec. 21, 2012.

The NRCS Office Locator is available at www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov.

"We are pleased to provide a variety of federal funding to help improve conservation on private land," said Angel Figueroa, NRCS Director of the Pacific Islands Area.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program, or EQIP, is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers through contracts up to a maximum term of ten years in length. These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. In addition, a purpose of EQIP is to help producers meet Federal, State, Tribal and local environmental regulations.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program is a voluntary program for conservation-minded landowners who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest land, and Indian land.

The Agricultural Manage-

ment Assistance provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into their farming operations.

Conservation Stewardship Program is offered in all 50 states, and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous sign-ups. The program provides many conservation benefits including improvement of water and soil quality, wildlife habitat enhancements and adoption of conservation activities that address the effects of climate change. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

Learn more about Farm Bill Programs and find out about other NRCS services at www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov. (**USDA**)

Saipan Tribune

Partners in Education

The Saipan Tribune would like to acknowledge these fine sponsors who are committed to education in the CNMI. Thank you all for ensuring that our children receive the worlds most up to date textbook: the newspaper.

PLATINUM SPONSORS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Eucon International School ■ Hopwood Junior High School ■ Kagman Elementary School ■ Marianas Baptist Academy ■ Marianas High School ■ Mt. Carmel School ■ Saipan Community School ■ Saipan International School ■ San Antonio Elementary School ■ Tanapag Elementary School
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dan Dan Elementary School ■ Garapan Elementary School ■ Grace Christian Academy ■ G.T. Camacho Elementary School ■ Hopwood Junior High School ■ Kagman High School ■ Koblerville Elementary School ■ Saipan International School ■ Tanapag Elementary School ■ WSR Elementary School
SILVER SPONSORS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cha Cha Junior High School ■ Kagman High School ■ Marianas High School ■ Saipan Southern High School
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hopwood Junior High School ■ Kagman High School ■ Marianas High School ■ Saipan Southern High
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Grace Christian Academy ■ Mt. Carmel School ■ San Antonio Elementary School ■ San Vicente Elementary School
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cha Cha Junior High School ■ Koblerville Elementary School ■ Saipan SDA School ■ WSR Elementary School
BRONZE SPONSORS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Garapan Elementary School ■ Grace Christian Academy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hopwood Junior High School ■ Marianas High School
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Garapan Elementary School ■ Marianas High School
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Tanapag Elementary School ■ San Vicente Elementary School
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dan Dan Elementary School ■ San Vicente Elementary School
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Kagman Elementary School ■ WSR Elementary School
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Oleai Elementary School ■ San Antonio Elementary School

If your company wants to participate in our program, please contact Celia Pillarina at 235-2440 ext. 171 or e-mail celia_pillarina@saipantribune.com

Good Samaritan recognized for his bravery and heroism

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

What would you do if you witness a crime being committed right before your very eyes? For Kanis Sinounou, helping out the victim would be the only logical thing to do.

"I couldn't just walk away from it. I felt like I had to do something," Sinounou, who recently witnessed a male individual rob and assault two female Russian tourists in Garapan, said in an interview.

Sinounou vividly recounted the night of Sept. 10 when, at about 7pm, he drove his way to Carolinian Utt to come and get his girlfriend Tarlin Castro, who just finished her class, and bring her home.

"While waiting for me, my girlfriend saw that there was something going on and she told me immediately when I arrived. She encouraged me to do something and that's when I saw two Russian ladies, one of whom was pushed down by a local guy while the other was trying to help her friend," he narrated.

Without any second thoughts about his own safety and well-



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce shakes hands with Kanis Sinounou as Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos looks on during yesterday's recognition ceremony at the Office of Governor's conference room in Capital Hill.

being, the 38-year-old Sinounou ran toward the commotion and yelled for the male individual to stop what he was doing. Instead, the man punched one of the tourists twice in the face, prompting Sinounou to stop the guy by grabbing him firmly from behind.

"I didn't know it was called a bear hug," Sinounou revealed, chuckling.

The male individual, later identified as John M. Namauleg, struggled to break free from Sinounou's grip. "He asked me to let him go several times but I told him that I would wait for the cops."

The cops arrived a few minutes later, and Namauleg continued to resist his arrest that Sinounou had to help the authorities to handcuff the defendant.

"My girlfriend was scared for me. I had my own fears because the guy was in shape and he was strong. But I felt good, too, because I did what I had to do at that time," added Sinounou.

Sinounou's bravery was acknowledged by government officials and tourism industry leaders yesterday at the Office of the Governor's conference room when they presented him with a plaque of appreciation for preventing the robbery and averting further injuries to the two Russian tourists.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who called Sinounou a "Good Samaritan" and "hero," expressed hope that there would be more locals who are willing to stand up and make sure that the CNMI's tourism industry will be protected.

"This is a very good example of us taking care of business here," said Inos.

Katrina Markova of Saipan Rai tour agency thanked Sinounou on behalf of the two Russian tourists, who already flew back to Khabarovsk in Russia last Tuesday evening. Both tourists, she said, regard their experience as something like a scene from a movie.

"They told me they'll come back because they felt that there are many good people on Saipan," Markova said in an interview.

Having locals help tourists in whatever way they can encourages visitors to come back, she said.

"If nobody helps them, that's a bad situation. Tourists like to feel that they're welcome and they want to feel at home," added Markova.

With tourism in the CNMI being a "very fragile" industry, chair Marian Aldan-Pierce of the Marianas Visitors Authority board stressed the need for the community to be conscious of what's happening in their surroundings and to do the right thing.

"If you see someone in trouble—not just our visitors but also our own people who live and work here—if you can do something, help out," she said.

Aldan-Pierce said Sinounou's heroic act has turned what could have been a "horrible" situation into something positive. She added that Sinounou is a "great model" for the younger generation, whose story will surely be shared as MVA continues its efforts to promote tourism as everybody's business.

"The act of one person is making the CNMI really good out there, so we're very grateful for that," she added.

Besides the plaque, Sinounou was also presented with gift certificates from DFS Galleria, Pacific Islands Club, and Kanoa Resort. Private citizens have offered as well to help Sinounou, a former tourist bus driver, find a job.

"With or without all these, it doesn't change the way I feel that what I did that night was only the right thing to do," Sinounou told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said he's already pleased knowing that his family and friends, particularly her 13-year-old daughter in Guam, are all proud of him.

"Let's be nicer to our tourists. As citizens of the islands, we are their hosts so let's make them feel welcome and happy," said Sinounou.

Guam-based group to host vets early intervention outreach

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam-based WestCare Pacific Islands will be hosting the Veterans Early Intervention & Transition Assistance Program Outreach today, Sept. 20, from 4pm to 8pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Open to all veterans and their families, the event is aimed at providing informa-

tion on services and support that soldiers may be eligible to receive, with the goal to connect veterans with services that they may not be aware of for some reason or for which they have not previously applied.

The outreach will also enable individuals who have access to veterans who may be isolated or not able to attend the session to share valuable local and federal resources available.

Featured presenters will come from the CNMI Veterans Affairs Office, the federal Veterans Office, Vet Center, and the Office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan.

Dinner will be served at the event.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center, WestCare Pacific Islands is located at Suite 301 of the Core Pacific Building in Tamuning, Guam.

It is one of the program locations of WestCare, a family of tax-exempt nonprofit organizations that provides a wide spectrum of health and human services in both residential and outpatient environments, according to its website.

For more information, email tony.nangauta@yahoo.com or Carmelita.calvo@us.army.mil or call (671) 727-5534 or (671) 488-9001.

40th YEAR

Tan Holdings

Established 1972

Weekly Raffle Winners

PRIZE	TICKET NUMBER	NAME
Cash Prize - \$100	1431	Alvin Mathew Sablan
GC from NAMI Bar - \$20.00	1264	Roger Apilado
GC from Chambre Bar - \$20.00	1081	Ardel Tumbaga
GC from Barefoot - \$20.00	1030	Janilyn
GC from Chambre - \$20.00	1372	Ellen Camacho
GC from D&Q - \$20.00	1642	Imelda Olivo
GC from Cosmos - \$20.00	0091	Mylene Banatasa
GC from D&Q - \$20.00	1763	Antonie Santos
GC from D&Q - \$20.00	0155	Ric Villanueva
GC from Tribes bar - \$10.00	0252	Charlene Beceril

Winners must present their coupons to the Kanoa Resort front desk to receive prize.

Mysterious blaze hits former garment factory

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A fire of still unknown cause broke out yesterday afternoon at a former garment factory located at the corner of String Beans Avenue and Pumpkin Street in Chalan Laulau.

Heavy rain helped firefighters in extinguishing the blaze less than two hours after the mysterious fire engulfed the former Pang Jin and Winners Garment at about 2:20pm.

No one was reported injured.

Thick white smoke blanketed Middle Road in the vicinity of the fire scene, slowing motorists passing the opposite lanes. Some motorists and residents in the area first thought it was just fog because the mountain was foggy at the time.

At 2:45pm there was heavy rain in the area, but the fire con-

tinued to gobble the interior of the factory's two-story building. The rain, however, continued for about an hour, making firefighters' job easier to control the blaze.

No other establishments or houses were affected because the abandoned factory is isolated from other residential and commercial buildings.

Eduard Manahan, 44, auto electrician of Marianas Repair Co., said their accountant went out from their office and noticed thick smoke coming out from the former factory that is located behind their compound.

Manahan said the workers started to leave the office as the smoke was going toward their direction.

The auto electrician said he proceeded to his house just near their office and brought his three children to a relative's residence in As Lito.

ATTENTION: CNMI DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN MEMBERS A PLAN FOR A SUCCESSFUL RETIREMENT

By now you should have been notified that effective in the new fiscal year (October 1, 2012), your employer will begin to withhold for Social Security Taxes.

We fully support the move to Social Security as it will help create a sound safety net for the employees of the government. However, please be aware:

- While Social Security has retirement benefits - it is not a retirement plan. You still need to save for retirement.
- Even though the CNMI Government enrolls you in Social Security, it **DOES NOT** guarantee that you will receive Social Security benefits. In order to become eligible for retirement benefits you need to accumulate 40 Social Security Credits.

If you are a member of the Defined Benefit Plan you will have the option to elect to terminate your DB membership and have the contributions you have made to date with interest refunded to you.

If you are a Defined Contribution Plan participant, your contributions will become voluntary.

The decisions you are being asked to make are going to have a dramatic effect on your family's finances. Before you make any decisions, make sure you understand all of your options.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE

You are encouraged to attend the following Public Education Outreach seminars.

The seminars will be held at the Multi Purpose Center.

At the education seminars:

- You will learn the facts of the DC Plan.
- Representatives will be present to answer any questions you might have.

THURSDAY:

Session 1: 8:30 A.M.
Session 2: 10:30 A.M.
Session 3: 12:30 P.M.

FRIDAY

Session 1: 8:30 A.M.
Session 2: 10:30 A.M.
Session 3: 12:30 P.M.
Session 4: 2:30 P.M.



2nd Floor, CDA Bldg.
Middle Road, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 235-2724/5 Fax: 235-2729
www.asctrust.com

*Helping you save for a successful retirement,
one paycheck at a time.*



Century Tours celebrates 10 years with thank-you bash



House Speaker Eli Cabrera, Rep. Edmund Villagomez, and Sen. Jovita Taimannao present a commemorative resolution to Tan Holdings and Century Tours officials and employees during the celebration of Century Tours 10th anniversary at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan on Sept. 18, 2012, in Garapan, Saipan.

Century Tours marked its 10th anniversary on Tuesday with a thank-you banquet for hundreds of vendors, supporters, employees, and guests at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa.

A video presentation on two giant TV screens highlighted the company's role in laying the ground for the CNMI to penetrate the lucrative China tourism market, which is projected to hit 150 million outbound travelers by 2015.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos presented a commemorative resolution to Tan Holdings vice chair Willie Tan, president Jerry Tan, and Century Travel general manager Ronald Chan, expressing the CNMI's gratitude to the company for boosting the islands' tourism numbers and helping the local economy grow.

The Legislature, represented by House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), Rep. Edmund Vil-

lagomez (Cov-Saipan), and Sen. Jovita Taimannao (Ind-Rota), also presented company officials with a commemorative resolution.

Willie Tan said that Century Tours continues to work with its airline partners to increase the number of Chinese tourists to the CNMI and that the company is currently in negotiation to add another charter service. He emphasized that Saipan is a competitive destination and that it cannot waste the momentum it already has with the China market.

Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce, who is also president of DFS Galleria, said, "We've been partners with Century Tours since Day 1.... Century Tours has taken that opportunity in bringing people here and we're going to hit our 100,000 mark by 2013 and that's going to be the first time ever for the [China] market. We started really small and now it's just steadily growing."

Aldan-Pierce said that what is needed is for the CNMI community itself to embrace the China market because that is where the growth is going to be in the years ahead. "I mean, my goodness, 150 million outbound by 2015 from the PRC. That's unheard of. We have to embrace that. ...The sooner the community really embrace that, I think the better off we're going to be because again, there's a lot of misconceptions about Chinese in general. But they're tourists just like us. We go to a destination, we want to experience the destination, the culture, the food, the people. They're no different from us."

Douglas Brennan, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president, echoed this, saying that Century Tours, along with MVA, HANMI, and the rest of the tourism industry are doing a great job in marketing the islands but "what we need now is

the buy-in from the population of the CNMI. This island belongs to us, we need to take care of our own house, and the guests will come."

In a later interview, Fitial said that China is the biggest market today, "that's why we're very fortunate that Century Tours is focusing on bringing more Chinese tourists to the Commonwealth. That's a big plus for the Commonwealth. Century Tours is improving the product by renovating the former Saipan Grand Hotel, that hotel is now better than before. They continue to improve the Fiesta Resort. I want to say this: that we hope to have tour companies that promote

tourism like Century Tours that would really help develop the economy of the Commonwealth so there would be more jobs for the local people."

In a separate interview, Inos said that Century Tours, along with Tinian Dynasty, was one of the first ones to bring in Chinese tourists when the Chinese government gave the CNMI its approved destination status in 2002. "We've gone a long way, ups and downs, but they're finally back."

"Century Tours is a little unique because the Chinese market is a new market. They started with a staff of about five, people out of Shanghai, and look at how they've grown. They're now a big group and brought thousands and thousands of tourists from an untested market and they're still around and they're going to do more." (*Clarissa V. David and Jayvee Vallejera*)

The MVA assisted the FAM tour with ground transportation and film permitting during their visit.

While in the Northern Marianas, the FAM tour also filmed on Managaha, during Sunday Mass at San Francisco de Borja parish, at souvenir shops, and at other popular tourist spots on all three islands. The crew also took in a submarine tour and a turtle snorkeling tour during their visit. (*MVA*)

'Wonder Airport' visits Saipan, Tinian, Rota

As part of its series on Micronesia, Japanese television program "Wonder Airport" visited Saipan, Tinian, and Rota last week to give its viewers details on this beach resort destination and its airports.

The show, which airs on BS-

NTV every Saturday evening, has a viewership of over 43 million and is expected to bring the Northern Mariana Islands \$5.5 million in advertising exposure.

"Wonder Airport is a series of overseas destination programs, with special focus on airports and airlines," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman.

"They have already featured 46 destinations around the world, and this is their first time featuring Micronesia. Through negotiations with the show producer, we were able to entice them to feature Tinian and Rota, in addition to Saipan. This show now draws attention to all our destination's attractions and creates awareness for all three islands."

Rotary soon to begin Kagman Children's Park project

The Rotary Club of Saipan will soon begin preparations for the construction of its Kagman Children's Park project.

Rotary vice president Laila Boyer said during the club's regular meeting on Tuesday that plans to meet with the Kagman Community Association had to be stalled after the residence of its president, Daniel Huh, was burglarized.

The burglary occurred last

month when Huh and his wife accompanied their daughter, Esther, to an educational tour at the White House after winning the Healthy Lunchtime Challenge.

Boyer said they are set to meet with Huh soon.

Community Services director Curtis Dancoc said in an earlier meeting that the Kagman Children's Park project is "moving forward" as the Rotary Club of Saipan is set to begin clearing

out the area where the park will be constructed.

Dancoc said that besides site clearing, the Rotary Club of Saipan is also working on getting the design plan completed.

Funds to be used for the Kagman Children's Park project were raised through the Rotary Club's various fundraising initiatives, including the Las Vegas Night event last July. (*Clarissa V. David*)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 20, 2001

Fund seals settlement deal with Torres

The Board of Trustees of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement has agreed to come to a settlement with former Administrator Juan S. Torres over the lawsuit the latter filed against the Board for sacking him. During yesterday's regular board meeting, majority of the board members voted to amicably settle the case with Torres, with only three voting nay-board chairman Vicente C. Camacho, board members Charles P. Reyes and Susana Mafnas. Torres, who was present together with his lawyer, Michael Dotts, during the meeting, later said that he was pleased over the board's decision "but I cannot issue any more comments than that until everything is in black and white."

Help comes quick for MVA

Reeling from the sharp drop in tourism arrivals in the last few days, the Marianas Visitors Authority got a quick shot in the arm yesterday, after the House of Representatives passed a bill that would earmark the aviation fuel tax for the MVA, at least until 2004. House Bill 12-416, which was sponsored by House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, would allocate the annual amount that the CNMI government generates from the fuel aviation tax-about \$300,000 or so-to the MVA for promotional purposes. "Actually, this amount is far less than what the MVA is actually asking for. During our series of meetings since Monday, the MVA has asked the government for \$1 million to step up marketing and promotional efforts in Japan and other countries, to tell them that the CNMI is still a safe destination," said Fitial.

Sept. 20, 2002

MVA eyes NMI as a Silver City

The Marianas Visitors Authority is interested in promoting the Northern Marianas as a retirement haven for elderly foreigners and has introduced a proposal to develop a housing area for the retirees. MVA Board Chair David M. Sablan said the visitors authority is specifically targeting Japanese "silver" individuals or those 60 years old and over. "This is a slight deviation from the real job of MVA but we are suggesting to try to promote a housing area for the retirees. This way, they can come in and buy an apartment in the CNMI. There's a definite market for apartments and somebody ought to take a look into this," Sablan suggested.

Guam, NMI on verge of anti-drug MOU

With drug demand trends that almost mirror each other, the Guam Army National Guard is stepping up its antidrug efforts by reaching out to the Commonwealth and playing a key role in encouraging people to live a drug-free lifestyle. In line with this, the Guam and Commonwealth governments are on the verge of signing a Memorandum of Understanding that would signal a closer and more coordinated effort in eradicating the drug malaise in the Marianas. Although his meeting with Gov. Juan N. Babauta yesterday morning mainly focused on the legal and logistical requirements of setting up an NMI National Guard, Brig. Gen. Jerry Rivera of the Guam Army National Guard said a major purpose of his delegation's visit is to assist the Commonwealth in its counterdrug efforts.

Sept. 20, 2003

DPH in full compliance with CDC standards

The Department of Public Health fully complies with the bioterrorism preparedness and prevention measures set by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, according to DPH public information officer John P. Douglas. "CDC informed us that we're in full compliance," said Douglas when asked about the CDC visiting team's onsite inspection last week. Representatives from CDC and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services arrived on Saipan Wednesday to meet with local health officials.

CPA to approach FY04 budget conservatively

The Commonwealth Ports Authority would impose a stricter travel policy in fiscal year 2004 to help the ports authority perform its financial obligations, in the wake of consecutive travel problems besetting the airport and seaport divisions in recent months. Also, CPA would retain its conservative approach to its FY2004 budget as officials look into how the ports authority could improve its financial status. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the draft of the proposed FY 2004 budget has been mapped out and is currently being reviewed by ports officials and Board members.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy birthday to the love of my life, my baby, Eling C. Serman! God bless and may you have many more birthdays to come, baby. Greetings come from Pwoch Lisua, our kids, and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Bureau of Economic Analysis released Tuesday estimates of gross domestic product for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for 2010 and revised estimates for 2002 to 2009. In this release, BEA—for the first time—also includes estimates of GDP by industry, compensation by in-

CNMI economy grew in 2010

dustry, and detailed consumer spending.

These estimates were developed under the Statistical Improvement Program funded by the Office of Insular Affairs of the U.S. Department

of the Interior.

Gross Domestic Product for 2010

After declining for six consecutive years, largely due to declines in the garment manufacturing industry, the CNMI's economy grew in 2010. The estimates for the CNMI show that real GDP—GDP adjusted to remove price changes—increased 2.3 percent. For comparison, real GDP for the U.S. (excluding the territories) increased 2.4 percent in 2010. In addition, per capita real GDP for the CNMI increased in 2010, reflecting the growth in real GDP and a continued decline in the population.

The growth of the economy in 2010 largely reflected increases in territorial government spending, in consumer spending, and in exports of goods and services.

Economic growth was tempered by an increase in imports. Exports increased for the first time after five consecutive years of decline. Tourism services (which make up the majority of exports of services) increased due to an increase in the number of visitors to the islands, offsetting continued declines in ex-

ports of goods.

More detailed estimates of consumer spending are being released for the first time and show that, in 2010, spending on both goods and services contributed to the increase in overall consumer spending for the year. Net foreign travel, calculated as spending by CNMI residents

abroad less spending by nonresidents in the CNMI, contributed negatively to growth in consumer spending as spending by visitors to the CNMI outpaced that of CNMI residents traveling abroad.

Gross Domestic Product by industry and compensation by industry

The new estimates of gross domestic product by industry (GDP by industry) provide additional information on economic growth and complement the aggregate GDP estimates that have been published since 2010.

While the GDP estimates show how much the entire economy has grown (or contracted), the GDP by industry estimates

show how major industries have contributed to that growth.

For the CNMI, the GDP by industry estimates show that the distributive services sector (including retail and wholesale trade) and the territorial government were the largest contributors to overall GDP growth in 2010.

Meanwhile, the manufacturing sector continued to contribute negatively to economic growth. The significant declines in manufacturing from 2005 to 2009 reflected the decline of the garment manufacturing industry.

The compensation by industry estimates show trends in compensation for major industries. Total compensation grew in 2010, reflecting increases in both private and government compensation. However, compensation for the manufacturing sector continued to decline, falling each year from 2005 to 2010.

Revisions

Estimates of GDP for 2002 to 2009 that were released on July 13, 2011 have been revised in order to incorporate improve-

ments to source data and estimation methodologies. Major improvements are:

- Improved methodologies for estimating consumer spending on goods and services;

- The incorporation of newly available data from the U.S. Census Bureau, including:

- Population and housing information from the 2010 Census of Population and Housing, and

- Wage and salary data for 2008, 2009, and 2010 from County Business Patterns;

- The incorporation of newly available source data for territorial government spending from government financial statements for fiscal year 2010.

The pattern of growth in the revised estimates is similar to that of the previously published estimates. In both the revised and the published estimates, real GDP decreased in all years except 2003.

Future directions

Moving forward, an agreement between OIA and BEA will extend and improve the estimates of GDP for the CNMI. The information provided by the CNMI government will continue to be critical to the successful production of these estimates.

BEA currently plans to release estimates for 2011 in the spring of 2013. **(BEA)**

Loan program now available for CNMI farmers



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Fred A. San Nicolas, assistant manager, Farm Loan Program, USDA-FSAA; Linda Cabrera, SBDC office manager; and Ivan A. Blanco, Commerce deputy secretary.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in conjunction with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), and through the CNMI Department of Commerce, are pleased to announce loan opportunities for farming related activities. Activities include a wide range of livestock and crops.

According to Fred A. San Nicolas, assistant manager for USDA-FSA's Farm Loan Program, "FSA provides loan opportunities through two primary programs. The first one is the Guaranteed Loan Program, where conventional lenders (the banks) lend to applicants with a 90-percent loan guarantee backed by the USDA-FSA. The second is through Direct Loans, where loans are made and serviced directly by FSA. The average annual percentage rates can change month to month, but remains fixed once the loan is closed."

Commerce deputy secretary Ivan A. Blanco added, "These types of opportunities are a breath of fresh air for our local entrepreneurs. The administration, through Secretary Igismar, continues to support these types of programs with the partnership of our Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to assist the local Sabalu Farmers Association and family size farms. I also applaud the initiative by the USDA-FSA to provide these types of opportunities for those already in the farming sector and those interested in farming."

For further information, please visit the USDA-FSA website at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>

In addition, you may contact Fred A. San Nicolas via email: fred.sannicolas@pb.usda.gov or by phone toll free at 234-0896. **(Office of Governor)**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Korean Song Contest on Nov. 23

The Korean Cultural Center will host a Korean Song Contest at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi Purpose Center in Susupe on Nov. 23. There will also be photo sessions in King and Queen costumes and exhibition for Love Korea movement from Nov. 19 to 24. Details will be announced later. Those who want to participate are asked to send their name and phone number to koreancultureweek@gmail.com. If you want to learn how to sing Korean songs, join special classes at Korean Community School, 4pm-6pm on Sept. 21 and 28 (Fridays) and 3pm-4pm on Sept. 22 and 29 (Saturdays). You can visit Korean

Noraebangs (karaoke room) for practice, especially with Korean friends. For more information, call 285-2221

KagES, Chacha Oceanview, KagHS PTSA meeting Friday

Kagman Elementary School, Chacha Oceanview Junior High School, and Kagman High School will be holding a unified PTSA meeting on Friday, Sept. 21, at COVJH from 6pm to 7pm. The agenda will include election of new PTSA officers, voting on the future of combined PTSA for all the schools, procedure for school progress reports, report cards, and principal's report. **(PR)**

St. Michael's staff complete Emergency Vehicle Operators Course



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seventeen employees of Saint Michael's Medical Response complete the Emergency Vehicle Operators Course conducted by the Department of Public Safety.

Seventeen employees of Saint Michael's Medical Response completed the Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC) conducted by the Department of Public Safety from Sept. 4 to 8 and from Sept. 10 to 14 at the Commonwealth Ports Authority Training Facility.

According to Francis S. Taimañao, St. Michael's chief of operations, "the certification course is geared towards equipping ambulance drivers with the skills and knowledge to ensure the safe operation of ambulance vehicles in emergency situations, enhance safe driving practices, and most importantly ensure the safety of patients and the public."

The 40-hour training conducted by Police Sgt. Anthony I. Macaranas and Police Officer Norris Kwon consisted of in-classroom and field training, as well as written and field tests. The course included a wide range of topics such as Legal Aspects of Emergency Vehicle Operations, Operational Risk Management, Selecting Routes, Reporting Emergency Vehicle Operations, Physical Forces and Emergency Vehicle Control, and Handling Unusual Situations, to name a few. The field training allowed the trainees to practice and apply maneuvers learned in the classroom setting.

The course was a re-cer-

tification for most of St. Michael's employees and certification for those recently hired by the company.

According to Derek T. Hocog, St. Michael's director of operations, "while the EVOC training is not mandated under CNMI laws, St. Michael's values its patients' safety first and foremost, and thus voluntarily made it a requirement for their drivers since opening its doors back in 2008. The training and re-certification is a requirement for continued employment with the company." In fact, this commitment to providing quality patient care is nowhere more evident than when St. Michael's hired a

certified trainer from off-island to train its employees before it transported its first patient.

"In addition," Hocog says, "we now have new employees on board that are also tasked with providing the Call-A-Ride program services. It is important that both our new and experienced employees have practical knowledge and learn effective techniques to keep themselves, and our clients, safe on the road."

The training represents the successful collaboration and public-private partnership between Saint Michael's, the first and leading private ambulance company in Micronesia, and DPS and CPA. **(PR)**

Opinion

Hafa Adahi!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 224Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

PUTTING SOME SENSE TO SENSELESSNESS

A deeper view inside Egypt, post the anti- Islam video crisis

By AHMED M. ABOU HUSSEIN
MCT*Ahmed M. Abou Hussein a public policy analyst specializing in institutional reform with emphasis on democratization and decentralization.*

There are many people who believe that what is happening in the Middle East, especially in Egypt, is merely senseless. There are many Middle East commentators who definitely agree with that and perhaps go further to accuse all the protests to be an act of mere terrorism. However, even though I agree that Muslims' reactions whether in Tunisia, Egypt or Libya could be described as insane, I disagree that it is senseless insanity.

The notorious movie that shook the world depicted the holiest human being to Muslims, Prophet Muhammed, as a buffoon, lusty homosexual, violent and a pedophile. This is indeed gigantically shocking. However, attributing some Muslims' insane and often criminal reactions to that movie alone is quite misleading. I believe this crisis is another manifestation of a great deepening gap between the Middle East and the West, especially the United States.

In Egypt there are multiple factors that led to this swift unnecessary escalation of events. The first is attributed to the Egyptian condition itself. Egypt is a country with a very bad education system, almost 40 percent illiteracy, almost 30 percent below poverty line and religious education is mostly informal as many Egyptians do not trust official religious institutions, such as al-Azhar or the Iftaa Institution. It is a very fertile ground for rumors, fanaticism, radicalism and manipulation.

The second factor is the media. The media, especially the right-wing religious based media, contributes magnificently to shape average Egyptians' minds and thoughts. Many Egyptians take these religious-based media sources as their needed religion fix. The majority of the so-called sheikhs who appear to lecture on these channels did not receive any acknowledged religious training from Egyptian Islamic institutions such as al-Azhar, which is known for its relative educational excellence and moderation.

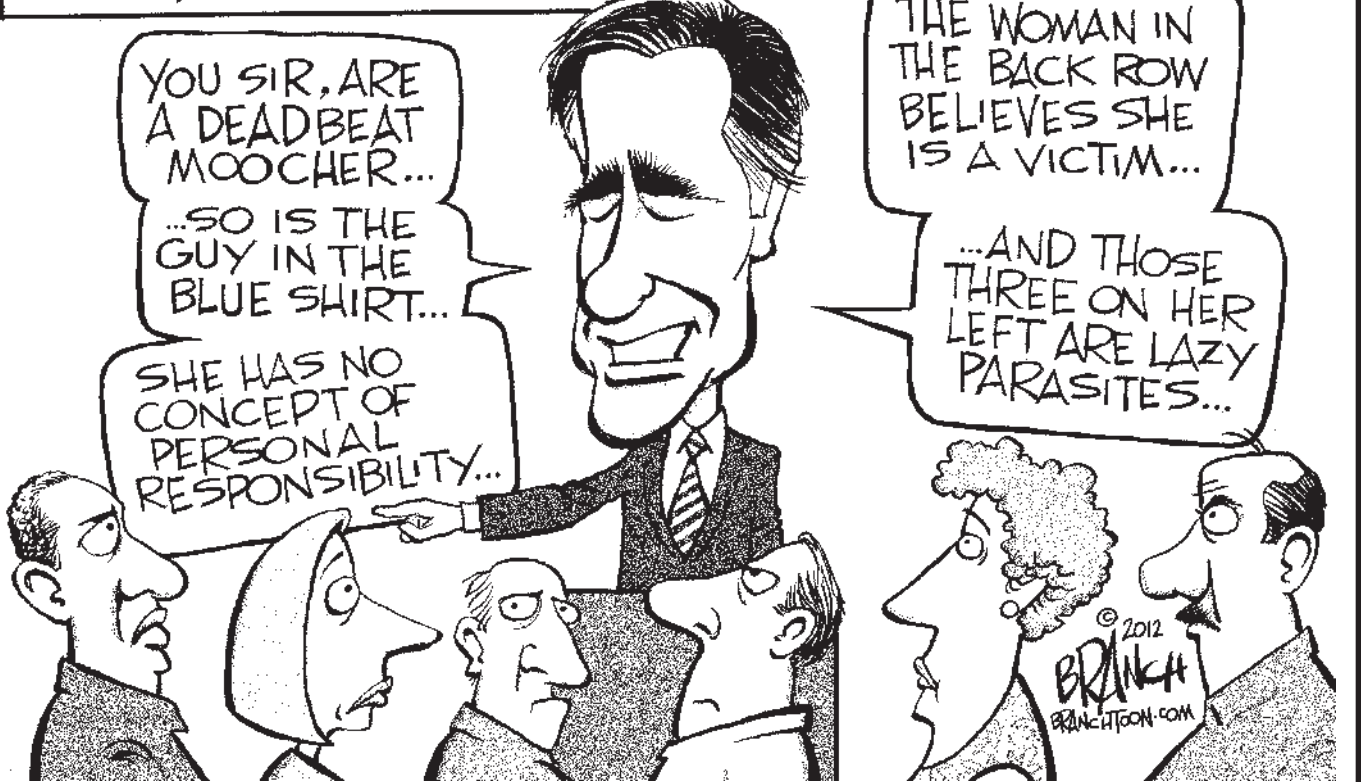
It has been shocking for moderate and liberal Egyptians to hear the infamous Osama bin Laden being called a hero and a true warrior of God by these sheikhs on these channels.

So picture the following: Hundreds of innocent young uneducated youths who were born perhaps few years before 9/11 learning from their trusted shiekhs that bin Laden is a hero. What would be the result?

The third factor contributing to this mess is the United States itself. Many Egyptians have negative sentiments toward the American government and sometimes it confused with the American people as well. This should not be news for anyone. The problem is that this sentiment has grown further through the last few years. George Bush and the Republican rhetoric in general, is perhaps the worst public relations disaster any country would have. Egyptian negative sentiments have grown extreme after a much better atmosphere during Bill Clinton's presidency. Bush, Dick Cheney and Condo-

See CRISIS on Next Page

ROMNEY GETS SPECIFIC



Liulian Durian in Dalian

William and Kate visited Singapore and Malaysia last week.

The stink that followed their entourage was the one emanating from the French press that discarded manners and printed unauthorized photos of topless Kate while vacationing with William in the South of France prior to their tour of Commonwealth nations in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

We are not privy to those photos, and frankly, anyone with a computer can log on to countless website that glorify the mammary glands, I wonder what the fuss is all about. Why, an Episcopalian priest is now in hot water for his penchant for nude photos as a photographer artist. Of course, when the Red Hats looked at Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel's fresco, they also decided to cover up some of the *au naturel* scenes.

I remember as a child in the '50s running around *sans* pants growing up in a Cagayan town close to Apayao in Northern Luzon, Philippines. The mountain folks brought their native goods to the coastal plain on Saturday market, and invariably, the ladies came topless nursing their kids. That is, unless they had been draped by New England Episcopalians and Congregationalists. The Christian missionaries favored floor length skirts and long sleeve shirts in the sweltering heat of the summer. They took offense at the sight of exposed flesh. True in Hawaii and the Marianas.

Six decades after my age of innocence, *Time Magazine* finally got a mother on its cover nursing her son. But in the summer of 1965, we turned 21 at North Beach in the San Francisco Bay Area where the topless bars were then in vogue. I remember my friends taking me to one of them, paying a \$5 entrance fee (one did get a glass of beer with it), just so one can ogle at girls' sumptuous muskmelons. And I thought I had the sights and scenes for free at our marketplace!

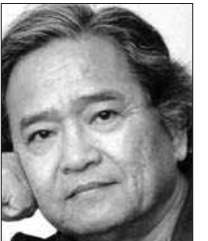
Anyway, William's lame joke on the pungent Queen of Southeast Asian fruits, the Durian, being served at the Malaysian Prime Minister's dinner to welcome the touring young royals, fell on unappreciative ears as the fruit, repulsive to Buckingham's nostrils, is revered and enjoyed by many palates in this part of the world.

Which only proves that what is offensive to some, is a delight to others.

We visited Korea in '72 and I fell in love with *Kimchee*, cabbage marinated and pickled in spices, placed in buried earthen jars for consumption in the winter. *Le baochai* to the Koreatown *Si Da* here in Shenyang, it is relished in Yanbian (Korea in China) just north of us, and, of course, with our proximity to the Koreans, it is not an uncommon fare in many dining tables.

My next door neighbor is a Korean instructor, and I am now happy to bring home a jar of Kimchee each time I go to the grocery since I can always point to his room as the source of the rotten scent each time the Han cleaning ladies hold their breath when they walk through our hall.

Surprisingly, the Nigerian students in our residence hold their breath when they smell the veggie as well. But they too have scents of their own, usually left in their wake on the elevator where the cleaning ladies dutifully spray air freshener.

By JAIME R. VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune*Former PSS teacher Jaime Vergara now teaches at Hang Gong Hang Tian Da Zue, Shenyang Aerospace University and is currently traveling in north Inner Mongolia in the prefecture of Hulunbeier.*

I lectured on Macroeconomics for foreign students of predominantly West Africans a year ago. I lightly and gingerly told them about a colleague in Lagos in the early '80s while we were standing on the bus on our way into town for supplies needed in a training program we were about to lead. I commented then that with the new wealth from oil abounding into Nigeria, body deodorants and bottled French water should be affordable.

My friend looked at me and facetiously but seriously responded: "If you can't smell someone, how will you know if they are friend or foe?" In the rainforests, wetlands, and grasslands of West Africa, each village emitted its own distinctive body odor, I was told, and that's how one recognized whether one ducked hostility, or, embraced someone's welcome. All the West African students nodded, none taking offense, and that is how I explain the aroma on the elevators to our Han's assaulted olfactory.

Most recently, a colleague posted to the listserv I belong to a picture of Sophie Matisse's (daughter of the painter) colored version of Picasso's *Guernica*, the original being in black and white done in protest after Franco allowed the Germans to test their bombing aircrafts on a opposition Basque town in northern Spain prior to WWII. Madrid's Prado houses the painting on a whole wall of its own, and now, Sophie's rendition hangs at the Art Museum in Flint, Michigan.

Having used the painting as a teaching tool (we called the pedagogical method "artform conversation" to egg self-awareness in the '70s), a method I still use in my classroom, our friend asked if Sophie's version improved the original, and someone responded that a 3-D version was actually done by someone else earlier, and that Sophie's was just another perspective on Picasso's painting.

There is no rule on taste, smell, and visual art. Nor, of sound. I've stopped wondering why my students prefer to listen to Lady Gaga and Rihanna, but would not countenance the sounds of the Carpenters and John Denver!

On a previous trip from Shenyang to Saipan, I overnighted in Dalian to catch the following day's flight, and I chanced on fresh *Liulian* on the sidewalk near the hotel. I was in seventh heaven. Surprisingly, the hotel staff immediately smelled the fruit and inquired how much I paid for it so that they, too, might get some of the prized edible, if it was affordable.

Prince William worried about the state of Malaysian health after encountering the fruit. He need not worry. Nor should the press be overly concerned about his comments and Princess Kate's boobs! But then, tabloids and magazines would not sell, and what else would we have to write about, pray tell?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ashes of fiscal calamity

The intramural debate gets explosive and equally discordant as folks express their views with or without a set of facts on the proposed impeachment of the governor. It meanders between intellectual, legal, constitutional, and situational discussion.

I relish listening to the last level given the raw truth coming from ordinary folks at home. Whether they understand what's at issue or not they'd take wild swings at adversaries just to vent their frustrations. It's a leaderless discussion the result often rudderless too. But it's wrapped in hardship and pain that have descended everywhere in the archipelago.

Obviously, the deepening listless economy has sent the family pocketbooks to the abyss of bankruptcy land. Folks find it hard paying for the first family home, medical services, pricier gasoline at the pumps, new spikes in the cost of basic goods at grocery stores, new increase in utilities, among others. This is the chief complaint of matriarchs one could hear loudly in any gathering throughout the islands.

What happens in the interim would require confident and proactive leadership. Our elected officials must be mindful that it could no longer leave in suspect or complete abandon the persistent deterioration of life in these isles. Pulling out from the ashes of fiscal calamity involves a process, a usually lengthy one. Growth of the local economy of 2.3 percent is nothing to boast about and not when a heavily listless economy needs major overhaul. It's more the reason to roll up your sleeves and get to work, now!

CRISIS

From Page 10

leezza Rice are notorious names to the Egyptian ears just like bin Laden to the American ones.

Bin Laden's picture in Tahrir was a shocker, yet it was expected. President Barack Obama gave a statement that the U.S. has killed bin Laden, without a trial, and then Americans celebrated happily. This was an outrageous act before a young Middle East and triggered wide sympathy for bin Laden. Some clerics and presidential candidates such Hazem Abou Ismail used that politically and started calling bin Laden a "hero" and a "martyr."

Let's add to that the American NGO crisis in Egypt during the Supreme Council for Armed Forces rule. The NGO crisis was crystalized by the state media as an American espionage aiming to divide Egypt into a Muslim state and a Christian counterpart. This was an outrageous crisis that the U.S. Department of State failed terribly to handle. The U.S. was once again portrayed as the vicious enemy that is conspiring against Muslims around the world, including Egyptians. The U.S. was portrayed as the conspirator that targets Egypt's division in the same way Sudan was divided.

The fourth factor is the brothers in power. Islamists in Egypt were able to seize both the parliament, which was later annulled, and the presidency. Mohammed Morsi, a Muslim Brotherhood leader, became the first elected Egyptian president. The Muslim Brotherhood led a dual political life that unfortunately was aided by the United States. Islamists in Egypt has based their rhetoric as anti-American rhetoric.

They claimed that they were the only ones who would save Egypt from U.S. domination and accused their liberal opponents of being U.S. agents. On the other hand, they would be conducting secret meetings with the Americans. When the video crisis erupted they failed not to do it again.

The Brotherhood leaderships would write on their public pages (Twitter and/or Facebook) two different messages to two different audiences. The English version would be sympathizing with America acknowledging that they had nothing to do with the videos and wishing the U.S. embassy workers well. The Arabic version would be calling for more protests and demonstrations in the name of the prophet. The first to call for demonstrations at the U.S. embassy in Cairo were Islamist parties, significantly the Salafist al-Nour party.

Simply the Salafist party and the Brotherhood were competing for the right-winger voters especially that there is a parliamentary elections expected within the coming months. However, the situation escalated beyond their control.

This part of the world, the Middle East, is not senseless or insane by divine design. It is a young poor uneducated area with too many unnecessary politics going on. Therefore, these notorious reactions to films or cartoons are not just senseless, but they are results of incremental bad politics from all sides.

Fabrication of culture

Efforts to revive the local culture for the benefit of posterity is welcome tidings and must constantly be nurtured and strengthened. Chief among these issues is the daily use of the vernacular. Unless we speak and write in the vernacular fluently, it eventually takes a silent exit and disappears into the sunset.

Efforts to ensure its perpetual use among our children deserve the accolades of every member of our community. A bit unsettling though that Chamorro had to be taught in our schools to ensure continuity of the language and sense of people-hood among our indigenious people. I think I could safely say that I have a fairly strong rooting in our cultural traditions. I've lived it all my life and still do to this day.

Over the years, however, I've seen how cultural arts like dances changed into what's now called "contemporary" Chamorro art. Disquieting the exploitation and fabrication of dances that were never a part of indigenous cultural tradition. Is this due to the obvious abject scarcity of arts and dances in our ancestral history?

For instance, there's the use of the conch to signal preparation and engagement in war. I doubt that Chamorros have ever displayed bravery then given the realistic awareness of the enemy's far more powerful weaponry. So there's the likelihood of hiding behind trees before inflicting death using its arcane weapons. In brief, there's no room to chance injury and death by alerting the enemy of its presence and specific location by blowing the conch.

Then there's the use of the hands (hula) that was never a part of Chamorro dance. Hula hands are Polynesian in their expressions of the waves, azure skies, colorful sunsets, lovely flower leis, etc. Ours is the thin bamboo stick we display during festive occasions. Doubling the insult is the fabrication of Chamorro Tahitian dance that originally came from the Cook Islands. It's another brave though wrongful re-fabrication of what's rightfully Polynesian. To lean on "adaptation" is a wonderful excuse.

Too, I've also seen Chamorro chants (my first ever all my life) that were never a part of the indigenous Chamorro art. You find this in the Carolinian arts and dances used to train young warriors or just a festive dance for fiestas. Do we have Chamorro stick dance? Isn't this a misrepresentation of Carolinian traditional dance? Even with your definition of modern or contemporary culture exacerbated by the thirst for exploitation, it still doesn't grant you the right to fabricate what isn't.

In short, each dance must be rooted in the history of Chamor-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shocked on lack of PSS specialists

I was shocked to read the article "More specialists needed for PSS students with disabilities" about the various specialists to help students with special needs and how there needs to be a drastic increase in numbers of these specialists. So many young children have various speech problems that it is disheartening that there are so few speech therapists. In terms of stuttering, I would like to inform people in Saipan that the website of The Stuttering Foundation

(www.stutteringhelp.org) provides many free resources for children who stutter and parents, such as streaming videos and downloadable literature. Four percent of children in Saipan stutter, as well as 1 percent of adults.

Jaime Flores
Bronx, New York

Admin should be commended for solar power deal

Congratulations goes to Governor Fitial, CUC, and the people of the CNMI! The governor will be signing the 10MW solar project very soon that ACE won through proper request for proposal (RFP) issued by CUC in 2011. The proposal was evaluated, ranked and a "best and final offer" was negotiated between CUC and ACE's principal, Mr. Tom Anderson, in September 2011. The power purchase agreement (PPA) was subsequently being negotiated by the CUC attorneys and ACE's attorneys. Due to the long delay of its PPA execution and implementation, our governor declared a state of emergency for CUC in mid part of this year, to address this long-standing issue. Finally, the people of the CNMI can achieve some financial relief once the 10MW solar power plant is completed and operational, which can occur eight to 10 months after start of construction of the power plant.

Solar power is part of this administration's energy policies to cut down the use of the unstable cost of fossil fuel. It is part of the green energy that is revolutionizing the world, especially for countries or islands that cater to the tourism industries such as the CNMI. Tourism is a clean industry that entails clean environment and clean energy. It is good for our islands!

Mr. Tom Anderson, ACE's principal, is very happy and excited to start the 10MW solar power plant. It is also a relief for him and his company because they spent thousands of dollars preparing, submitting, traveling to and from the U.S. and Saipan, hotel accommodations, and paying for consultants and attorneys for the PPA negotiations.

The action taken by our governor is honorable. It shows the world that when the CNMI invites companies to include local, foreign as well as U.S., to submit proposal for projects, that their proposal will undergo a thorough evaluation and selection by the CNMI government and a properly negotiated contract will be awarded to those that has the best interest for the CNMI as well as their offers. Their efforts will not be wasted and ignored!

Kudos to the governor, and keep up the good work and may you continue to execute and implement your alternative and green energy policies in the CNMI for the betterment of our people. May God bless you and the people of the CNMI.

Vicente M. Sablan
Kagman III

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



ros. It has to have historical connectivity. Otherwise, we'd be falsely adapting these dances like local musicians translating American and other songs with audacity to claim with lamed pride that it's Chamorro. An original material could stand the test of this undertaking. Anything else is theft by claiming what isn't yours!

There's also a dance along the shore about a canoe. The lyrics asked redundantly, "Canoe, where are you going?" You could literally answer it any which way you wish. But you're stuck in the lack of common sense in the query, "Where are you going?" There's no other lyric besides a dumb query to add substance to the use of the canoe. It goes to illustrate the shallowness of the choreographer who must have braved rendering his woefully poor written Chamorro. Humiliating! Is fabrication and exploitation cultural too? A'Saina! Che'chu Ladrones!

Changing land tenure system

In the event you haven't critically probed what else happens if Article XII isn't repealed then the following explanation ought to take you into reality check land.

The current land tenure system supports, since 400-plus years ago, individual landownership of private land. In other words, the land that is privately yours solely belongs to you come hell or high water. I'm sure most of you agree with it.






Now, Article XII proposes collective or community ownership of land. In other words, your land is equally the property of others in collective ownership per the dictates of the infamous constitutional provision. Is this new arrangement acceptable with you? Is it your consent that other members of the Northern Marianas also share in the ownership of your private land?

This is the essence of Article XII where we shift gear from individual ownership to community ownership. Do you agree with what it proposes to do with your privately owned land? It would shift from "my land" to "our land", dib a?

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87 ° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼78
Palau	Showers	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼74
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼74
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼80

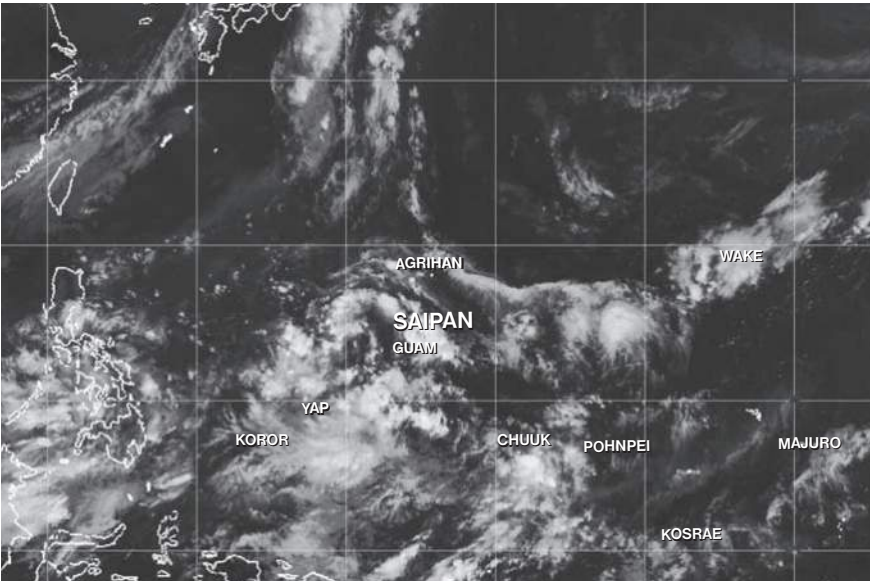
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲63 ▼49
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼62
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼80
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼73
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲64 ▼53
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲87 ▼65
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼51
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼76
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼52
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼69
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲66 ▼49
Pusan	Sunny	▲77 ▼63
Rome	Sunny	▲78 ▼59
Salem	Sunny	▲84 ▼50
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲59 ▼52
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲76 ▼59
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼74
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲72 ▼57

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:27 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
12:00 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
5:44 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
11:04 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Mariana Islands within 125 miles of a line from 16N140E to 13N147E. A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 14N130E through a weak circulation centered just southwest of Yap at 9N137E to end south of Chuuk at 4N153E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found over Yap and Chuuk states as well as the Republic of Palau within 350 miles of a line from 10N137E to 4N153E. A surface trough extends northeastward from 14N159E to beyond 25N at 175E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present near Wake Island within 140 miles of a line from 15N154E to 15N159E to 17N163E to 22N171E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:15 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:14 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:51 AM	9:34 PM
Friday	10:52 AM	10:31 PM
Saturday	11:53 AM	11:31 PM
Sunday	12:50 PM	
Monday	1:43 PM	12:30 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPT 11, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:45am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA5062	2:40am	4:20am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7	DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)				PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
U2608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7	OZ607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana							
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

FedEx says economy is stalling, cuts outlook

NEW YORK (AP)—FedEx Corp. says the global economy is stalling, and it's going to get worse next year.

The conditions are shrinking earnings at the world's second-largest package delivery company. Factories are making fewer items for FedEx to ship and customers are opting for cheaper delivery options to save money.

FedEx on Tuesday cut its outlook for global growth and industrial production while slashing the forecast for company earnings. And CEO Fred Smith suggested trade has slowed to levels seen during the last two significant economic downturns.

It's more evidence that the global economy has a way to go to a full recovery. Several countries in Europe are in recession and the U.S. is struggling with high unemployment and weaker manufacturing growth. And Smith said some experts have underestimated the severity of the slowdown in exports from China, where FedEx has invested heavily over the last several years, adding new planes to export goods and expanding its



In this Wednesday, May 16, 2012, file photo, a FedEx delivery truck is seen at the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield, Ill.

hubs and network.

FedEx's forecasts are closely watched for signals of future economic health. Its results provide insight into the global economy because of the number of products it ships and the number of countries in which it does business. Bigger rival UPS said in July that it expects the global economy to get worse before it gets better. UPS also cut its earnings forecast.

The slow pace of economic recovery is hurting FedEx because it relies on sharp spurts of

demand to feed its air network. Demand for air freight is usually strong coming out of a period of slow economic growth, because retailers have whittled down their inventory and need to replenish quickly when demand picks up. The current recovery in the U.S. is the slowest since World War II.

FedEx lowered its expectations for U.S. economic growth to 2.2 percent in 2012 and 1.9 percent next year. Those are mostly in line with economists' views.

Half avoid taxes, get US help, but many not poor

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mitt Romney got the math about right. But when he said 47 percent of Americans pay no income taxes and are "dependent on government," he blurred together half or more of the entire country, ranging from the nation's neediest to its middle class, and even some of its richest families.

Forty-six percent of the country's households—some 76 million—paid no federal income taxes last year, according to a study by the Tax Policy Center.

While it's true most of those families are poor, the numbers include many others who got tax breaks because they are old, have children in college or didn't owe taxes on interest from state and local bonds. And

of those who didn't write checks to the IRS, six in 10 still paid Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes, and more than that paid federal excise taxes on items such as gasoline, alcohol and cigarettes, said Roberton Williams, who analyzes taxes at the center.

On the spending side, 150 million people—just under half the country—received benefits last year from one or more federal programs, according to the Census Bureau.

A look at just the four biggest programs shows how varied their often-overlapping recipients can be. There were 50 million collecting Social Security and 46 million getting Medicare health coverage for the elderly—programs that pay every-

one regardless of their income. Eighty million were living in households getting Medicaid medical coverage, and 48 million were in families receiving food stamps, which are limited to the poor.

Combined, those numbers belie a political point that Romney, the Republican presidential candidate, was making when he spoke at a secretly recorded Florida fundraiser in May.

Some 47 percent, he said, "will vote for the president no matter what." But that's not so for the elderly, who favored Romney over President Barack Obama 52 percent to 42 percent in an Associated Press-GfK poll last month, and it wouldn't be true for millions of middle-class or wealthy voters either.

1 year after encampment began, Occupy in disarray

NEW YORK (AP)—Occupy Wall Street began to disintegrate in rapid fashion last winter, when the weekly meetings in New York City devolved into a spectacle of fistfights and vicious arguments.

Punches were thrown and objects were hurled at moderators' heads. Protesters accused each other of being patriarchal and racist and domineering. Nobody could agree on anything and nobody was in charge. The moderators went on strike and refused to show up, followed in quick succession by the people who kept meeting minutes. And then the meetings stopped altogether.

In the city where the movement was born, Occupy was

falling apart.

"We weren't talking about real things at that point," says Pete Dutro, a tattoo artist who used to manage Occupy's finances but became disillusioned by the infighting and walked away months ago. "We were talking about each other."

The trouble with Occupy Wall Street, a year after it bloomed in a granite park in lower Manhattan and spread across the globe, is that nobody really knows what it is anymore. To say whether Occupy was a success or a failure depends on how you define it.

Occupy is a network. Occupy is a metaphor. Occupy is still alive. Occupy is dead. Occupy is the spirit of revolution, a lost

cause, a dream deferred.

"I would say that Occupy today is a brand that represents movements for social and economic justice," says Jason Amadi, a 28-year-old protester who now lives in Philadelphia. "And that many people are using this brand for the quest of bettering this world."

On Monday, a couple hundred protesters converged near the New York Stock Exchange to celebrate Occupy's anniversary, marking the day they began camping out in Zuccotti Park. About a dozen were arrested after sitting on the sidewalk, but there was no sign of a planned "people's wall" on the streets surrounding the stock exchange.

Nation

Romney tries to stem damage from new controversy

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—His campaign at a crossroads, Mitt Romney said Tuesday the federal government should not "take from some to give to the others" as he sought to deflect a wave of criticism over recent remarks dismissive of nearly half of all Americans.

The former Massachusetts governor neither disavowed nor apologized for the comments he made in a videotape that surfaced on Monday. In it, he said 47 percent of Americans don't pay income taxes and believe they are victims entitled to government help, adding that his job as a candidate is "not to worry about those people."

He spoke as at least two Republican Senate candidates

pointedly disagreed with the man at the top of their ticket, and as GOP officials openly debated the impact of a series of recent controversies on the party's chances to capture the White House from Barack Obama.

Obama's White House piled on, seven weeks before Election Day. "When you're president of the United States, you are president of all the people, not just the people who voted for you," said press secretary Jay Carney. He added that Obama "deeply believes that we're in this together."

Romney seemed to say otherwise in the video, made last May, in which he told donors at a fundraiser that 47 percent of Americans "believe the government has a responsibility to care

for them ... believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, to you name it. That that's an entitlement." He said, "I'll never convince them they should take personal responsibility and care for their lives."

In a Tuesday interview on Fox, the network of choice for conservatives, Romney said he wasn't writing off any part of a deeply divided electorate in a close race for the White House, including seniors who are among those who often pay no taxes. Instead, he repeatedly sought to reframe his remarks as a philosophical difference of opinion between himself and Obama.

"I'm not going to get" votes from Americans who believe government's job is to redistribute wealth," he said, adding that was something Obama believes in.



Romney

Chicago teachers vote to return to classroom

CHICAGO (AP)—The city's teachers agreed Tuesday to return to the classroom after more than a week on the picket lines, ending a spiteful stalemate with Mayor Rahm Emanuel that put teacher evaluations and job security at the center of a national debate about the future of public education.

Union delegates voted to formally suspend the strike after discussing details of a proposed contract settlement worked out over the weekend. Classes could resume as early as Wednesday.

Delegates poured out of a South Side union hall singing "solidarity forever."

"I'm very excited. I miss my students. I'm relieved because I think this contract was better than what they offered," said America Olmedo, who teaches fourth- and fifth-grade bilin-

gual classes. "They tried to take everything away."

Said Shay Porter, a teacher at the Henderson Academy elementary school: "We ignited the labor movement in Chicago." The walkout, the first in Chicago in 25 years, shut down the nation's third-largest school district just days after 350,000 students had returned from summer vacation. Tens of thousands of parents were forced to find alternatives for idle children, including many whose neighborhoods have been wracked by gang violence in recent months.

Tuesday's vote was not on the contract offer itself, but on whether to continue the strike. The contract will now be submitted to a vote by the full membership of more than 25,000 teachers.

The walkout was the first

for a major American city in at least six years. It drew national attention because it posed a high-profile test for teachers unions, which have seen their political influence threatened by a growing reform movement. Unions have pushed back against efforts to expand charter schools, bring in private companies to help with failing schools and link teacher evaluations to student test scores.

The strike carried political implications, too, raising the risk of a protracted labor battle in President Barack Obama's hometown at the height of the fall campaign, with a prominent Democratic mayor and Obama's former chief of staff squarely in the middle. Emanuel's forceful demands for reform have angered the teachers.

Judge: Police to enforce Ariz. immigration law now

PHOENIX (AP)—A judge in Arizona ruled Tuesday that police can immediately start enforcing the most contentious section of the state's immigration law, marking the first time officers can carry out the so-called "show me your papers" provision.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton is the latest milestone in a two-year legal battle over the requirement. It culminated in a U.S. Supreme Court decision in June that upheld the provision on the grounds that it doesn't conflict with federal law.

Opponents responded to the Supreme Court decision by asking Bolton to block the requirement on different grounds, arguing that it would lead to systematic

racial profiling and unreasonably long detentions of Latinos if it's enforced. She said early this month she wouldn't block it, and gave the go-ahead Tuesday for the law to take effect.

The section of the law requires that officers, while enforcing other laws, question the immigration status of those suspected of being in the country illegally. The "show me your papers" name comes from opponents.

Arizona's law was passed in 2010 amid voter frustration with the state's role as the busiest illegal entry point into the country. Five states—Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, South Carolina and Utah—have adopted variations on Arizona's law.

A call to the office of Gov.

Jan Brewer, who signed the measure into law, wasn't immediately returned Tuesday afternoon.

A coalition of civil rights groups is awaiting a ruling from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on their latest effort to prevent the questioning requirement from taking effect. "Our next step is seeing what happens with that," said Linton Joaquin, a lawyer for National Immigration Law Center, one of the groups in the coalition.

Some backers of the law questioned the level of cooperation they will get from federal immigration agents, who will be called to verify people's immigration status and be responsible for picking up illegal immigrants from local officers.

Asia

Militants claim Afghan attack is revenge for film



In this Friday, Sept. 14, 2012 file photo, Afghans burn the U.S. flag in Ghanikhel district of Nangarhar province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, during a protest against an anti-Islam film which depicts the Prophet Muhammad as a fraud, a womanizer and a madman.

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Islamic militants sought Tuesday to capitalize on anger over an anti-Islam video that was produced in the United States, saying a suicide bombing that killed 12 people in Afghanistan was revenge for the film and calling for attacks on U.S. diplomats and facilities in North Africa.

The attempt by extremists across the region to harness Muslim fury over a film that denigrates the Prophet Muhammad posed new concern for the United States, whose embassies and consulates have been targeted, and in some cases breached, during riots and protests over the past week.

At the same time, Western leaders welcomed statements by

Middle East governments that condemned the violence against diplomatic facilities on their soil, even as they expressed anger over the video. Some of those governments replaced autocratic regimes in popular uprisings that swept the region, allowing for greater leniency toward protest.

At least 28 people have died in violence linked to the film in seven countries, including U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans killed in a Sept. 11 attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya. The toll also includes 12 protesters killed in riots over the film last week.

Some officials in Libya have said the attack on the consul-

ate was planned in advance by militants. However, the White House said Tuesday the assault appeared to have been sparked by anger over the film, though the investigation continues.

The crisis has become a major foreign policy challenge for Washington in the final weeks of a presidential election campaign that has largely focused on economic challenges. The uproar over the video, "Innocence of Muslims," which was made by an Egyptian-born American citizen and posted on YouTube, reflects seemingly intractable tension between Western principles of free speech and Islamic beliefs that brook no insult directed at the prophet.

PH media say new cyber law threatens press

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine media groups said Tuesday a new law targeting cybercrime could also be used to curb press freedom.

The Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility and the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines also criticized the government for passing the law while delaying a proposed freedom of information act.

They said in separate statements that the law signed by President Benigno Aquino III last week includes libel as a cybercrime despite efforts by

press freedom advocates to decriminalize the offense.

Presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said bloggers and others in social media should be accompanied by responsibility.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, one of the authors of the law, said it provides a legal framework for detecting, investigating and suppressing cybercrimes such as hacking, identity theft, spamming, cybersex and online child pornography.

Last month, Philippine police broke up a group allegedly in-

involved in online fraud, arresting 380 foreigners, mostly Chinese and Taiwanese, in raids on 20 houses in metropolitan Manila and nearby Rizal province.

However, the media groups noted that the new law incorporates an 82-year-old penal provision against libel.

The law shows "how restrictive rather than expansive is the mindset of the country's legislators and of Mr. Aquino himself" in promoting accountability, transparency, press freedom and free expression, the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility said.

avoid being targeted by protesters were open again. Large and sometimes violent anti-Japan protests roiled many Chinese cities over the weekend, triggered by the Japanese government's purchase last week of the disputed East China Sea islands.

PH deports 279 Taiwanese in online fraud

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines has deported 279 Taiwanese arrested in the country's biggest crackdown on online fraud after one died and many others fell ill in crowded detention facilities. Taiwan urged the

Philippines to send them home to face prosecution there. They are accused of impersonating police, prosecutors and bank officials to convince victims in China and Taiwan to transfer money to accounts provided by the syndicate. They allegedly duped victims into believing their bank or credit card accounts had been hacked and were being used for money laundering or other crimes. The Taiwanese left early Wednesday. They were detained with 86 Chinese and a New Zealander in a police camp gymnasium where one Taiwanese died of a stomach ailment linked to dengue fever. More than 100 others also fell ill.

World

Syrian jets hit Lebanese territory near border

BEIRUT (AP)—Missiles fired by Syrian warplanes hit Lebanese territory Monday in one of the most serious cross-border violations since Syria's crisis began 18 months ago, security officials in Beirut and Lebanese state media said.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations, said four missiles fired by two Syrian jets hit a rugged and remote area on the edge of the Lebanese border town of Aarsal. No casualties were immediately reported.

Lebanese President Michel Suleiman ordered an investigation into the border shelling Monday, without openly blaming Syria.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported that the warplanes fired three missiles that fell on the outskirts of Aarsal about 500 meters (yards) from the border between the two countries.

"I heard several explosions and saw four clouds of dust billowing from the area," Aarsal resident Nayeh Izzedine said by telephone referring to the border. "I don't know if it was an air raid but there was a plane in the sky."

He added that the town had been quiet two hours after the 10 a.m. attack.

The Syrian forces were believed to be chasing rebels in the area, which has been the site of clashes in the past between opposition fighters battling Syrian troops just on the other side of the frontier. Lebanese

armed forces have in the past detained people in the region for trying to smuggle weapons into Syria from Lebanon.

Aarsal is a predominantly Sunni Muslim town, like the majority of Syria's opposition that is trying to oust President Bashar Assad from power. Assad belongs to the minority Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam.

Syrian shells have hit Lebanese territory in the past but the air raid appears to be the most serious violation. Several Lebanese, including a journalist, have been killed and dozens wounded by fire coming from the Syrian side.

Also Monday, Syrian troops shelled rebel-held areas around the country including the northern city of Aleppo, Syria's largest, and the Damascus neighborhood of Hajar Aswad, activists said. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and another activist group the Local Coordination Committees also reported clashes between troops and rebels.

On the diplomatic front, Egypt's President Mohamed Morsi held talks with the Turkish foreign minister on Syria's crisis, while Iran's top diplomat joined counterparts from the two countries later in the evening to seek an end to the war.

After the Cairo meeting, foreign ministers from the three countries said they had found common ground between

them, but that a solution would not come easy. Cairo is trying to persuade Iran to drop its unquestioned support of Assad in exchange for help in easing Tehran's regional isolation, officials close to the Egyptian presidency said last week.

In Geneva, an independent U.N. panel confirmed that an increasing number of "foreign elements," including Islamic extremists, are now operating in Syria, in its first report to say that outsiders have joined a war spiraling out of control.

The investigative panel appointed by the Human Rights Council says some of these forces are joining armed anti-government groups while others are operating on their own.

"Such elements tend to push anti-government fighters toward more radical positions," the head of the panel, Brazilian diplomat and professor Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, told diplomats.

The Syrian uprising, which began with largely peaceful protests, has since morphed into a deadly armed insurgency. Hundreds of people are killed every week as the government increasingly relies on air power to try to crush the rebels.

Activists say more than 23,000 have been killed in the conflict.

The government denies that there is any popular will behind the revolt, saying it is driven by foreigners and terrorists. The regime could use the U.N. panel's report to bolster its claims.

Analysis: Prophet film diverts gaze from Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—For the embattled Syrian regime, the crudely produced film mocking Islam that has unleashed fury across the Muslim world could not have come at a better time.

Images of furious protesters targeting Western diplomatic sites in Libya, Egypt, Pakistan and elsewhere have diverted the world's gaze from the bloodstained streets of Syria, where President Bashar Assad is trying to crush an 18-month-old uprising.

The crisis over the film also has reinvigorated militant rhetoric that U.S. and Israel are the real enemies of Muslims, taking the heat off of both Assad and his loyal and powerful ally in neighboring Lebanon, the militant group Hezbollah.

On Tuesday, Syria's Cabinet condemned the movie, titled "Innocence of Muslims." In its first official reaction, the Cabinet said the film about the Prophet Muhammad is "cheap and provocative," adding that it's "part of a Western project that aims to infringe upon the nation's heritage and symbols ... as a prelude to control its potentials and wealth."

It remains to be seen whether

the controversy will result in any lasting gains for Syria or for Hezbollah, whose reputation has suffered severely for siding with the Assad regime even after supporting revolts in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and Bahrain.

The demonstrations over the film, while fervent, were relatively small to begin with, and they appear to be tapering off in the Arab world. Still, Hezbollah is determined to keep them going, which serves the interests of the Shiite militant group as well as Assad.

Assad's fall would be a nightmare scenario for Hezbollah. Any new regime led by Syria's majority Sunni Muslims would likely be far less friendly—or even outright hostile—to Shiite Muslim Hezbollah. Iran remains the group's most important patron, but Syria is a crucial supply route. Without it, Hezbollah will struggle to get money and weapons as easily. The Syrian conflict has descended into a civil war, with neither side able to strike a definitive blow against the other. The result is a murderous stalemate, with a growing sense of worldwide horror over violence that activists believe is respon-

sible for killing 23,000 people.

The prophet film, however, has exposed a well of deep anger and frustration directed far beyond Syria's borders—and Syria and its allies are seizing on it.

In his first public appearance since 2011, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah told tens of thousands of rapturous supporters Monday that there must be sustained demonstrations against the film.

There are four more rallies planned this week in Lebanon, starting Wednesday, as Hezbollah tries to redirect popular rage against the U.S., describing the film—which is amateurish and intentionally provocative—as an unprecedented attack on Islam.

"The world should know that our anger is not a passing thing. ... This is the start of a serious campaign that must continue all over the Muslim world in defense of the prophet of God," said Nasrallah, who rarely appears in public for fear of assassination.

"As long as there's blood in us," he added, "we will not remain silent over insults against our prophet."

ASIAN BRIEFS

China cleans up after angry anti-Japan protests

BEIJING (AP)—China is returning to normalcy after angry protests over Japan's wartime occupation and Tokyo's recent purchase of islands also claimed by Beijing. Beijing sanitation workers were using high-pressure hoses Wednesday to erase the stains of paint bombs hurled at the Japanese Embassy the day before. Road blocks were removed, allowing for normal traffic around the embassy and police shooed pedestrians away. Japanese shops, restaurants and factories in China that closed to

Focus



AP
Kashmiri Muslim protesters burn an effigy representing the United States as they shout slogans during a protest in Srinagar, India, Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2012. The protest was held against an anti-Islam film called "Innocence of Muslims" that ridicules Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

CERRITOS, California (AP)—While the man behind an anti-Islam movie that ignited violence across the Middle East would likely face swift punishment in his native Egypt for making the film, in America the government is in the thorny position of protecting his free speech rights and looking out for his safety even while condemning his message.

It's a paradox that makes little sense to those protesting and calling for blood. To them, the movie dialogue denigrating the Prophet Muhammad is all the evidence needed to pursue justice—vigilante or otherwise—against Nakoula Bassely Nakoula, an American citizen originally from Egypt.

In America, there's nothing illegal about making a movie that disparages a religious figure. And that has the Obama administration walking a diplomatic tight rope less than two months before the election—how to express outrage over the movie's treatment of Islam without compromising the most basic American freedom.

"The thing that makes this particularly difficult for the United States is that ... we treat what most of us would refer to as hate speech as constitutionally protected speech and Americans don't appreciate, I think, how unusual this position seems in the rest of the world," said Lawrence Rosenthal, a professor at Chapman University's School of Law in Orange, California.

The situation also raises vexing questions about how far the government can and should go to protect someone who exercises their First Amendment right. In the past, for example, police have stood guard to ensure Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan could march without being attacked for their views.

Free speech, religion clash over **anti-Muslim** film

GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

But Nakoula's case invites scrutiny because the free speech he exercised with the film "Innocence of Muslims" has had such far-reaching and violent implications.

If the government were to overtly protect Nakoula, it could be seen by some as tacit approval of the film, and further enflame protests. Leaving him to fend for himself could have deadly consequences. There are examples of violence against others who have written or spoken against Muhammad.

White House spokesman Jay Carney on Tuesday stressed that the video was not connected to the United States government and suggested it was being "exploited by groups that have an interest in creating chaos and destabilizing their local government or attacking the West or the United States."

Egypt's general prosecutor on Tuesday issued arrest warrants for seven expat Egyptian Coptic Christians, including Nakoula, and referred them to trial on charges of harming national unity, insulting and publicly attacking Islam and spreading false information. The charges carry the death penalty.

So far, the U.S. government has acknowledged offering Nakoula very limited assistance. Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies escorted Nakoula to an interview with federal probation of-

ficials. They did so in the dead of night and allowed Nakoula to cover his face. And early Monday, deputies answered his family's request for help leaving the house where they'd been holed up for five days so they could reunite with the 55-year-old filmmaker. All remain in hiding.

Department spokesman Steve Whitmore stressed the agency is not providing protective custody. He referred questions to federal authorities, who have declined to comment.

Jody Armour, a professor at the University of Southern California's Gould School of Law, said it's "not unusual at all for the government to step in and give a citizen in distress or danger special protection, but it can't be unlimited. They're going to have to strike a balance."

A 14-minute trailer for the film posted on YouTube sparked violence in the Middle East, including an attack in Libya in which a U.S. ambassador was killed. Nakoula, a Coptic Christian and American citizen who served federal prison time for check fraud, told The Associated Press in a short interview last week that he was involved in management and logistics for the anti-Islamic film. Federal officials, however, told the AP they have concluded he was behind the movie.

Furor over the film has been widespread. Bahrain protesters used Twitter to organize demonstrations that included burning American flags in the nation that hosts the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet. Pakistan's conservative Islamist parties sent out text messages, mosque announcements and made phone calls to bring out protest crowds, including about 1,000 people in the northwestern city of Peshawar on Sunday and hundreds who rushed the U.S. consulate in Karachi, sparking clashes with police in which one demonstrator was killed.

"Yes, we understand the First Amendment and all of this stuff," wrote Khalid Amayreh, a prominent Islamist commentator and blogger in Hebron on the West Bank. "But you must also understand that the Prophet (for us) is a million times more sacred than the American Constitution."

Were he in his native Egypt, Nakoula could be charged with "insulting religion," a crime punishable by up to three years in prison or could face the more serious charge of "upsetting national security," which carries a life sentence.

In America, the government can't even order that the video be removed from YouTube. All it can do is ask. And so far, parent company Google has declined, saying the video was within its guidelines for content. The company

did restrict access to the video in certain countries, including Egypt, Libya and Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation.

"This can be a challenge because what's OK in one country can be offensive elsewhere," the company said in a statement.

That's precisely the point about the First Amendment, Armour said.

"The reason it is a constitutionally protected interest is precisely because it may prove unpopular," he said. "Words and images don't just convey information, they are attached to consequences. That's when we really have to ask ourselves, 'What price are we willing to pay for that First Amendment interest?' And these are the times that really test our convictions."

In 1975, former CIA agent Philip Agee published a book detailing agency operations and disclosing the names of a number of CIA agents working undercover overseas, Rosenthal said. Even in that instance, the U.S. government didn't press criminal charges but instead revoked Agee's passport and sued him for the book's profits.

"It's not clear that there is, on the books today, a law that makes what (Nakoula) did a crime," Rosenthal said. "This is an extremely difficult problem."

Indeed, federal officials have said they are looking at Nakoula only in the context of whether he violated his probation for the fraud conviction. Under terms of his sentence, he was banned from using computers or the Internet as part of his sentence.

The probation issue "gives the government a relatively low visibility way of prosecuting him but not technically for what he said and how inflammatory it was," Armour said. "It may be a way of splitting the baby."

Environment

Villages slowly vanish as Hispaniola lakes grow

By TRENTON DANIEL and
EZEQUIEL ABIU LOPEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOCA DE CACHON, Dominican Republic (AP)—No one thought much about it when the largest lake in the Caribbean began rising in a year of heavy rains. But then it never stopped.

Lake Enriquillo in the Dominican Republic has doubled in size over the past eight years, swallowing thousands of acres of farms and more than a dozen villages.

In neighboring Haiti, smaller Lake Azuei has also steadily swelled, destroying homes and farms as well as disrupting trade by occasionally blocking a key cross-border highway. The two lakes are only three miles (five kilometers) apart and are fed by some of the same streams.

It's been a slow-motion disaster and potentially catastrophic for two countries already burdened by major environmental challenges. The waters' rise has worsened exponentially in recent years, especially after heavy rains in 2007 and 2008 hit the island of Hispaniola, which both countries share.

Tropical Storm Isaac dumped more water on the region last month, sparking more damage.

While the cause remains a mystery, theories as to why the lakes are rising range from sediment and trash clogging the water system to increased rainfall from climate change and heavy storms.

Dominican farmer Domingo Bautista recalls how the water gradually overtook his sugar cane, banana and sweet potato crop. Within two months, the family had to abandon their one-bedroom home in the sunbaked village of Boca de Cachon.

"The water just crept up on us," said Bautista, who now works as a janitor at a roadside inn. "It didn't happen overnight."

The spread of Enriquillo has flooded 16 communities in two provinces, more than 46,500 acres of agriculture land and 1,000 properties, according to a July study authored by the Technological Institute of Santo Domingo and the NOAA CREST Center of the City College of New York. In all, some 10,000 families have lost cattle, farmland or their homes.



In this Sept. 5, 2012 photo, a jet ski sits parked on the shores of Lake Enriquillo in Jimani, Dominican Republic, near the border with Haiti. The waters' rise has worsened exponentially in recent years, especially after heavy rains in 2007 and 2008 hit the island of Hispaniola. Tropical Storm Isaac dumped more water on the region last month, sparking more damage.

In Haiti, heavy rains made the situation worse last year and dozens of families were forced

to evacuate. Many migrant laborers who cross into the Dominican Republic couldn't make the journey.

"It's a clear environmental disaster," said Antonio Perera, the Haiti country manager for the United Nations Environment Program. "It's happening slowly, slowly, slowly, and you won't see the immediate effects like an earthquake or hurricane."

Researchers have brought up several factors behind the rise of Enriquillo and Azuei, which both contain salt water because the low-lying region was once part of the ocean.

Scientists have speculated that, on the Haiti side, massive deforestation has caused sediment to fill the lake while trash clogs the canals that would drain it. The lakes in both countries may also be growing because of heavier than average rainfall in recent years.

On top of that, Perera said, Haiti's January 2010 earthquake may have shifted faults beneath the lakes and somehow altered the hydrology of the area, though water levels began rising years before the quake.

"Two or three days after the earthquake there were springs everywhere in Thomazeau," he said, referring to a lakefront town on the northern end of Azuei he visited after the quake. "Even in the living rooms."

Lake Azuei has expanded outward by about three feet per year for the past 10 years, growing to 52 square miles (134 square kilometers), according to satellite images captured in the City College of New York study.

It was once only on the Haitian side but extends across the border by one to two kilometers, covering a Dominican customs office in brackish water.

Similarly, Enriquillo's shores have moved out by about three feet per year over the past decade, reaching 128 square miles (331 kilometers), double the size of the lake in 2004.

Many believe that the two lakes will soon merge as the water levels rise. Right now, they're separated by a road that often floods during heavy rainfall. Back-to-back storms in 2008 caused Azuei to spill and the border closed for several days, causing an untold loss in commerce.

Like Enriquillo, Azuei is surrounded by cinderblock homes, and even a two-story resort, that are either partially underwater or completely so.

Haitian farmer Cathleen Pierre and her family fled their home, now a part of Azuei, and live in a hodgepodge of shacks sandwiched between the lake and the mountains. The high cost of living in Port-au-Prince makes sure they stay there.

"If the water rises again, we'll move farther up the hill," Pierre, 58, said as she hiked among her crops of corn and coconut. "We don't have another place to go."

Despite the obvious concerns, both governments have done little to stem the rising water levels or help the families displaced by them. And it's not clear what the countries plan to do in the long term.

Both sides are studying the phenomenon and have called upon the United Nations to im-

plement a \$2.5 million project that has planted thousands of fruit trees along the border.

"The governments really need to get serious about this issue," said Jorge Gonzalez, a professor of mechanical engineering at City College of New York and the lead author of the July study.

Authorities in the Dominican Republic have been sending food weekly to the poorest villages on the lake. They've also rebuilt broken water channels that were damaged in the 2007 and 2008 storm seasons. The Agriculture Ministry said it plans to relocate 500 families around the lake to give them fresh land for farming.

The Haitian government, for its part, has laid gravel to elevate the road that leads to the southern border crossing, and Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe recently visited the area.

The new environment minister, Jean-Vilmond Hilaire, said Haitian and Dominican officials were first trying to understand what was going on before coming up with a plan.

"Both governments need to sit down and work to solve the problem," said Hilaire, who assumed the post in August.

The rising waters have only added to the region's environmental challenges. Already, Haiti has only 2 percent of its forest cover left, after people deforested the mountains by chopping down trees to make charcoal. In the Dominican Republic, deforestation has hit more than 20 percent of the country.

Plus, the lack of a proper sanitation system aggravated a deadly cholera epidemic that surfaced in Haiti the year of the earthquake and then spread, though mildly so, across the border.

After 2007's Hurricane Noel caused the lake water to flood his home and crops, Bautista left his farm for the border town of Jimani. He spent three months there, waiting for the water to subside as he took odd jobs to get by.

When he returned to Boca de Cachon, he found the water covered his house, which was stripped of its belongings by thieves. Bautista became frustrated while describing how little the government has helped him, and how he's forced to clean rooms at a love motel named El Encuentro, or The Encounter.

"I have kids and I have to work because I'm not going to steal anything," Bautista said in the middle of a two-lane road where it vanished into lake water. "I have to earn a living for my family and will do it with my own sweat."

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

Katrina Reynalyn Rebeliyan Ruwaath



Would like to extend our sincerest gratitude for all the prayers, condolences, support that you have extended us during her time of sickness, her death and funeral.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to those who have traveled great distances to extend their support and condolences to us.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to the NICU staff, doctors and nurses of CHC, Dr. Ada Clinic, Marriage Encounter (M.E.), KKMP, Life in the Son Christian Fellowship and Pastor Eric ♥ Sharon.

Thank you to all our family and friends from Saipan, Rota, Yap, and all who assisted with her funeral arrangements.

We will forever be grateful and forever keep you in our prayers.

Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Kammagar, Salamat Po



Vince ♥ Mary Rose,
Deven, Kabrina and Kayina Ruwaath

Life & Style

Topless photos ruling: 1st battle in privacy war

LONDON (AP)—Prince William and Kate Middleton's aggressive legal strategy over topless photos of Britain's likely future queen is the first salvo in what could be a decades-long tug-of-war over their family's privacy.

A French court ruled in favor of the royal couple on Tuesday in their fight over the photos, but the scope of that ruling will be limited.

The unauthorized topless photos of Kate have already been widely published in France, Italy, Ireland and on the Internet—lessening the impact of Tuesday's court injunction against future publication inside France.

The royals' strong stance also included a bid to persuade French prosecutors to launch a criminal inquiry to target the offending photographer.

The wealthy royal couple did not gain much on paper—the court-imposed fine was about \$2,500—but legal experts and royal watchers say the action was designed to demonstrate their willingness to use all legal means to prevent future press intrusion.

That will become even more important when the couple have a child, who would become third in the line of succession to the British throne, said Joe Little, the managing editor of Majesty magazine.

"This was done because they want to set a benchmark for the future," he said.

"They want to send a warning to anybody who might think of doing something similar in the future."

The fast legal intervention, which developed within hours of the publication of the photos Friday in a French gossip magazine, represents a break from Queen Elizabeth II's traditional policy of using legal action only as a means of last resort. It also reflects William's determination not to let the press harass Kate as it did his late mother, Princess Diana, Little said.

Still, the case shows the unlikelihood of controlling photos through legal means once they have been published.

Closer magazine was ordered to turn over all of its digital copies of the photos, but that has little meaning in a world where millions of copies can be made and distributed in the blink of an eye.

The revealing pictures will follow Middleton for the rest of her life—not unlike the snapshots of her appearance in a charity fashion show wearing black lingerie and a sheer dress during her university days.

"Clearly, the harm has been done," said Christopher Mesnooh, an American lawyer working in France for Field



Members of the media gather outside a court house after a French court ordered a magazine publisher to hand over all digital copies of topless photos of Britain's Duchess of Cambridge and blocked the further publication of the images, in Nanterre, west of Paris, Tuesday Sept. 18, 2012.

Fisher Waterhouse. "Thousands, now tens of thousands of copies, are now in public circulation. A legal decision is a wonderful thing to obtain and the royal couple did exactly what they should have done. But you know the magazine is out there and I suspect most of you have already seen copies of that magazine, so the basic, the initial harm, has been done."

He said magazine executives had concluded in advance they had little to fear from an adverse court ruling when they decided to print the photographs, obtained by a photographer who trained a long lens on the royal couple as they sunbathed on a private estate in southern France.

"Closer magazine has done a very sophisticated cost-benefit analysis," Mesnooh said. "Whatever the amount of damages that a French court will award, it will be a fraction of the publicity that the magazine will have gained, as well as the number of issues of this particular issue of Closer magazine which will be sold."

Tuesday's ruling only affects the French magazine branch of Mondadori, Closer's publisher. A French court ordered it to hand over all digital copies of topless photos of the Duchess of Cambridge within 24 hours and blocked further publication of what it called a "brutal display" of William and Kate's private moments.

The court also stopped the magazine from republishing the pictures—including on its website and its tablet app—as well as re-selling them.

Mondadori faces a daily fine of €10,000 (\$13,100) if it fails to do so.

"These snapshots which showed the intimacy of a couple, partially naked on the terrace of

a private home, surrounded by a park several hundred meters from a public road, and being able to legitimately assume that they are protected from passers-by, are by nature particularly intrusive," the French ruling decreed. "(They) were thus subjected to this brutal display the moment the cover appeared."

The photos showed Kate relaxing at a private villa in Provence, in southern France, sometimes without her bikini top and, in one case, her bikini bottom partially pulled down to

apply sunscreen.

The royal couple is also filing a criminal complaint against 'X'—the unnamed photographer who took the picture.

The suit aims to flush out the mystery photographer's identity and prevent him or her from spreading the photos to new locations. If the case goes forward, the photographer could face a substantial fine and a one-year prison term.

But fines and prison terms won't remove the photos from the Internet.

Jon Cryer wipes out on bike during LA triathlon

NEW YORK (AP)—Jon Cryer cracks up viewers every week on his hit CBS sitcom. But now the "Two and a Half Men" star is aching from a crackup of his own.

During the cycling part of a triathlon on Sunday, Cryer lost control of his bicycle and hit the pavement skidding. Nothing was broken, but he left skin from his left side along a Los Angeles roadway.



This undated image released by CBS shows actor Jon Cryer in a scene from "Two and a Half Men."

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies,
GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Joeten Superstore in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000



\$6.00 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
\$6.00 All Day Admission For Seniors
\$4.75 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
\$6.00 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
\$6.00 Military with Valid I.D.
\$2.50 Additional for 3D Shows

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com



Friday, Sept. 14th through Thursday, Sept. 20th
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

★ NOW SHOWING ★



Resident Evil: Retribution 3D

Friday		7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	7:30	
Monday thru Tuesday		7:30	

Cast: Milla Jovovich, Michelle Rodriguez
Action • Rated R



Finding Nemo 3D

Friday		7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	7:00	
Monday thru Tuesday		7:00	

Cast: Albert Brooks, Ellen DeGeneres, Willem Dafoe
Children's/family • Rated G



Resident Evil: Retribution 2D

Friday	4:30	
Saturday	4:30	
Sunday	4:30	
Monday thru Tuesday	4:30	

Cast: Milla Jovovich, Michelle Rodriguez
Action • Rated R



Finding Nemo 2D

Friday	4:00	
Saturday	4:00	
Sunday	4:00	
Monday thru Tuesday	4:00	

Cast: Albert Brooks, Ellen DeGeneres, Willem Dafoe
Children's/family • Rated G



The Possession

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:50
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Monday thru Tuesday		4:25	7:25

Cast: Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Kyra Sedgwick
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG13



The Odd Life of Timothy Green

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Monday thru Tuesday		4:20	7:20

Cast: Jennifer Garner, Joel Edgerton
Comedy, Drama, Fantasy • Rated PG



The Expendables 2

Friday	4:40	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:40	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:40	7:10
Monday thru Tuesday		4:40	7:10

Cast: Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Jet Li
Action • Rated R



Paranorman

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Monday thru Tuesday		4:15	7:15

Cast: Susan Dudgeon, Donna Lynn Leavy
Children's/family • Rated PG



Bourne Legacy

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:40
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Monday thru Tuesday		4:05	7:05

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz
Spy film, Action • Rated PG13

• NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Daughter's texts from school help mom endure empty nest

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have to respond to your reply to "Tammi's Mom in N.J." (June 21), whose daughter won't answer her texts at college. Our daughter, "Jill," attended college 12 hours from home. She would text me almost every day—short, sweet messages always ending with "Luv U, XOXO." I looked forward to those texts because they were a lifeline to my daughter.

Tammi's Mom is coping with empty nest syndrome, which no child can understand until she experiences it one day herself. Thankfully, Jill knew how much her texts meant to me. They got me through four long years without her. I hope Tammi sees this and appreciates that she has a mom who isn't smothering her, but who loves and cares about her.

REMEMBERING IN JOHNSTOWN, PA.

DEAR REMEMBERING: Thank you for sharing. I stressed to Tammi's Mom that her daughter is growing up and trying to establish independence. However, readers were quick to point out that Tammi still owes her mother the courtesy of keeping in touch:

DEAR ABBY: When I was away at college, many students expected their parents to pay their tuition and living expenses, but stay out of their lives. Tammi's Mom said she'd be happy with a call or text every two or three days. I don't think that is unreasonable.

I have lived several hundred miles away from my family for 10 years now. I enjoy a great deal of independence, but I know it worries my parents to have me so far away. I call them every day or two. These quick phone calls (usually only five minutes) help them see that I'm safe and happy, and also allow me to remain emotionally close to my family, even though I'm not geographically close.

Abby, asking for a quick text, which takes only a few moments, is NOT "helicopter parenting."

INDEPENDENT GIRL IN ARIZONA

DEAR ABBY: To Tammi's Mom, I say—it's time to get a life! Do things now that you've always wanted to do. If you're married, find things in common again. Sometimes when we raise our kids, we can become consumed with their wants and needs, and our marriages suffer.

Take up a new hobby and let your baby bird spread her wings. She'll thank you for it and will WANT to call you when you stop calling or texting every day. If you get yourself busy, you'll spend less time sitting by the phone.

KNOWS FROM EXPERIENCE

DEAR ABBY: Until recently, I had two children in college—one close to home, the other several hours away. Unfortunately, there is so much violence everywhere today and kids are vulnerable to it, especially around many colleges and universities.

Kids send hundreds of text messages a day to their friends. I don't think it's too much to ask for an occasional text from your child to make sure he or she is indeed safe.

BILL IN BLOOMSBURY, N.J.

DEAR ABBY: When my daughter left for college, I told her I was not going to call her because I didn't want to intrude on her new life, but that I would be happy to talk to her anytime she called me. Doing this empowered my somewhat rebellious girl by putting HER in charge. As a result, she would call me several times a week and our relationship was strengthened.

WISE PARENT IN COLORADO

DEAR ABBY: While I was away at college, my dad was like Tammi's Mom, and it drove me nuts. So we compromised. Every Sunday morning at 9, Dad and I would talk on the phone. That way he could catch up on my week and know I was OK. Mom needs to give her daughter space.

COLLEGE GRAD IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ABBY: If Tammi's Mom is paying for her daughter's phone, the girl should answer when Mom calls. I told my daughter if she ever ignored my calls or texts again, I would have her phone turned off. We chat a lot now.

DAD WHO PAYS IN GEORGIA

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.



Dear Abby

Streisand, Minnelli sing for Marvin Hamlisch in NY

NEW YORK (AP)—Barbra Streisand, Aretha Franklin and Liza Minnelli took turns singing songs by the late Marvin Hamlisch during a stirring memorial service for the composer on Tuesday.

Minnelli sang "If You Really Knew Me" from the musical "They're Playing My Song," Franklin gave a soulful rendition of "Nobody Does It Better" from the James Bond film "The Spy Who Loved Me" and Streisand brought the crowd to its feet when she finished "The Way We Were" from the film of the same name.

The composer's wife of 26 years, Terre Hamlisch, welcomed the crowd.

"These are Marvin's melodies," she said. "Marvin Hamlisch lives in them. This is who Marvin Hamlisch was."

Hamlisch composed or arranged hundreds of scores for musicals and movies, including "A Chorus Line" on Broadway and the films "The Sting," "Sophie's Choice," "Ordinary People" and "The Way We Were." He died on Aug. 6 in Los Angeles at age 68 after a short illness.

Streisand, who wore all black and sat on a stool, said she first met Hamlisch in 1963 when he was her rehearsal pianist in her breakout Broadway show, "Funny Girl." He also was tasked with getting everyone coffee.

Since Streisand didn't drink coffee, he would bring her chocolate doughnuts.

"He always brought me two, and so our love affair began," Streisand said as the crowd laughed.

Drummer Patrick Carney of The Black Keys married



This Saturday, Sept. 15, 2012 photo released by Joshua Black Wilkins shows Patrick Carney of The Black Keys, right, with his bride Emily Ward at their wedding officiated by actor Will Forte, center, at the couple's home in Nashville, Tenn.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Patrick Carney of The Black Keys has gotten married.

The rock drummer married Emily Ward on Saturday at the home they share in Nashville.

The Keys' publicist says the couple was joined by about 350 family and friends for the backyard ceremony.

Comedian Will Forte officiated. Ward wore a dress by Carolina Herrera and walked down the aisle to "Crimson and Clover"



Barbra Streisand performs during A Tribute to Marvin Hamlisch, a memorial concert, at The Juilliard School's Peter Jay Sharp Theater, Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2012 in New York.

Their lives would intersect in personal and professional ways over the years. She sang his "The Way We Were" to a Grammy Award win in 1974, and he played at her wedding in 1998.

Franklin, in a white suit, changed some of the lyrics to the sexy James Bond song "Nobody Does It Better," to "Marvin, you were the best." Hamlisch had co-written the No. 1 R&B hit "Break It to Me Gently" with Carole Bayer Sager for Franklin.

Minnelli, in a beaded dress, said she met Hamlisch when she was 14 and he was 15 and they became friends immediately. He later arranged many of Minnelli's albums, including her first two as well as "Judy Garland & Liza Minnelli 'Live'" at the London Palladium.

"He was one of my few constants," she said, getting teary on

stage. "He was always there. He always was and always will be."

There were few seats available in the 900-seat theater at The Juilliard School, where decades before Hamlisch had become its youngest person accepted at just age 7. His widow urged the crowd to fund scholarships in his memory.

Hamlisch went on to become one of the most decorated artists in history, winning three Oscars, four Emmys, four Grammys, a Tony, a Pulitzer and two Golden Globes.

The 90-minute memorial, which also boasted performances by Itzhak Perlman, Michael Feinstein, Chris Botti and Maria Friedman, took place on a stage dominated by a huge photo of Hamlisch and two towers of flowers on either side. Performers would blow the photo kisses or bow to it after their turns on stage.

In the audience were Mike Nichols, the Oscar- and Tony-winning director, and Valerie Jarrett, a longtime adviser and friend to Barack and Michelle Obama.

Hamlisch's funeral was held Aug. 14 at Congregation Emanu-El, a prominent Manhattan synagogue where legendary songwriter George Gershwin's funeral was held in 1937. Former President Bill Clinton and Sir Howard Stringer, chairman of Sony Corp., eulogized Hamlisch.

Hamlisch received a Tony and a Pulitzer for "A Chorus Line," the second-longest-running American show in Broadway history, and wrote the music for other stage hits such as "The Goodbye Girl" and "Sweet Smell of Success."

He was working on a new musical, "Gotta Dance," at the time of his death and was scheduled to write the score for a new Steven Soderbergh film on Liberace, "Behind the Candelabra," starring Michael Douglas and Matt Damon.

The memorial also included the song "While I Still Have the Time," which is part of the new musical based on the Jerry Lewis film "The Nutty Professor" that debuted in Tennessee this summer.

Annie Lennox marries American doctor in London

NEW YORK (AP)—Annie Lennox has married for a third time.

The Scottish singer-songwriter's publicist confirms Lennox married Mitch Besser in a private ceremony Saturday in London.

Several reports in the British press over the weekend described the ceremony, which

was held aboard a boat on the Thames River. Lennox's two daughters served as bridesmaids.

Lennox is best known as the singer for the multiple Grammy-winning duo The Eurythmics. Besser is an American doctor and founder of the charity mothers2mothers.

They are both 57.



This Feb. 21, 2009 file photo shows British musician Annie Lennox during the "Festival di Sanremo" Italian song contest in San Remo, Italy.

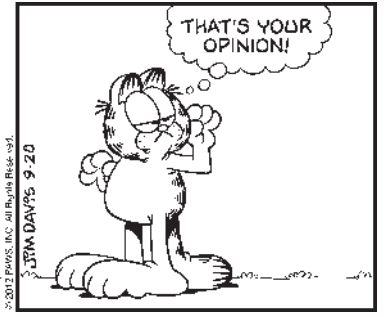
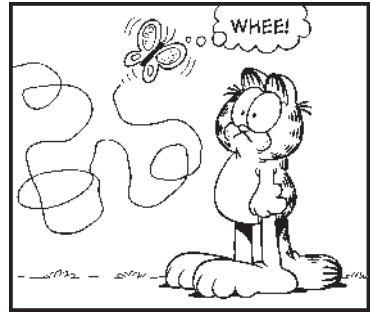
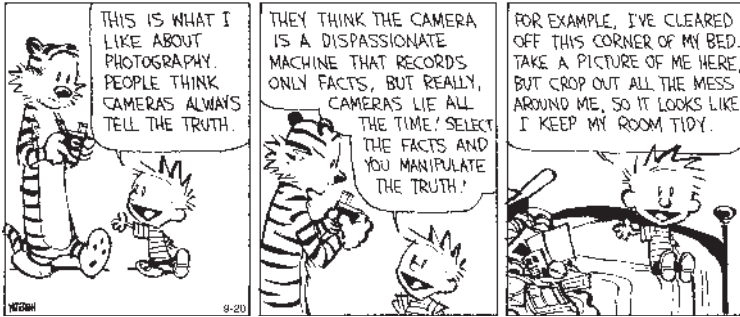
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

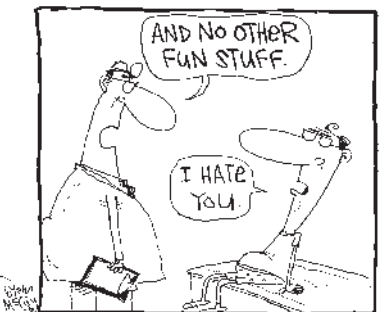
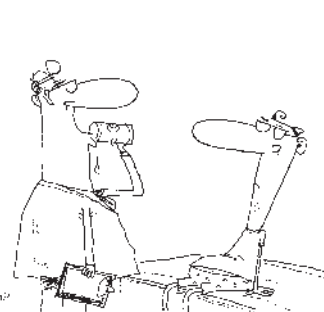
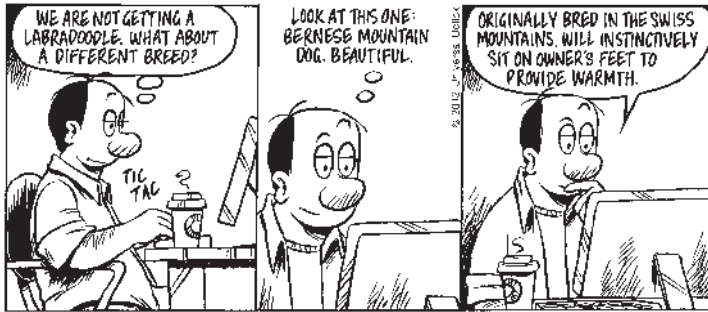


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 With 5-Across, fade

5 See 1-Across

8 Old World duck

12 Inauguration recitation

13 Genetic stuff

14 Comic strip possum

15 Lo-cal

16 Squid's squirt

17 Acknowledge

18 Gold coin of old Italy

20 Different-ly

22 Berlin-born actress

26 Hack-nayed

29 Banned pesticide

30 Ostrich's kin

31 Miners' finds

32 Pair

33 Okla-homa city

34 Zodiac sign

35 Onassis, familiarly

36 Isolated hill

37 Berlin-born actress

40 Census statistics

41 Slanted, in print

45 Fence opening

47 Pitch

49 Angry

50 Verve

51 — out a living

52 PC picture

53 Dissolve

54 Pop

55 "— Misbe-havin'"

19 Under the weather

21 Parcel of land

23 Buzz Aldrin's real first name

24 Send forth

25 Discour-teous

26 Brazen

27 Vicinity

28 Re

32 Had a ren-dezvous

33 Biconti-nental

35 Shock and —

36 Wager

38 Representa-tive

39 Weary

42 Places

43 Press

44 Penny

45 Prized posses-sion

46 Hearty brew

48 Alias abbr.

Solution time: 25 mins.

N	O	S	L	E	G
D	A	V	E	S	C
E	A	V	E	S	A
S	T	A	R	T	I
P	A	L	E	R	O
O	M	E	N	Y	A
A	M	A	S	S	M
C	L	O	T	N	A
W	A	S	G	E	E
T	R	A	I	N	S
M	I	M	O	S	A
C	A	M	E	L	A
M	E	X			

Yesterday's answer 9-20

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Juan Pablo Montoya, 37; Kristen Johnston, 45; Gary Cole, 56; Sophia Loren, 78.

Happy Birthday: Emotions will mount if you are too intense. Lighten up and keep things in perspective. Reflect on past experience and learn. Eliminate situations that are bringing you down and holding you back. Focus on finishing whatever you start. Step into the limelight if it will help you reach your goals. Your numbers are 5, 13, 21, 28, 32, 35, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take what belongs to you. Show your strengths and indulge in the activities and events you know will lead to advancement. Flirt with change, and address issues that you need to put an end to in order to move forward. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't get angry if you need to resolve a pending problem. Diplomacy and practicality will be the answer to taking care of business. Don't make unnecessary personal changes or indulge in activities that haven't worked for you in the past. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make positive changes at home and to important relationships. Give a concise rundown of what you want to do or see happen and how you feel others can contribute. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Engage in an activity, event or project you enjoy. The more creative you are allowed to be, the better the outcome. Less talk and more action will make a positive difference to the way you are treated. Deal with responsibilities compassionately. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It will be difficult to get things done. Personal interference can be expected. Discuss your plans openly and face opposition head-on so you can move forward. An emotional issue must not be allowed to fester. Make a decision and don't look back. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take on whatever challenge comes your way and you will surprise whoever tries to tackle you. Your intensity, determination and skill will ensure that you are a candidate for any encounter you pursue. Believe in your abilities, but don't boast. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Slow down and deal with an individual or situation cautiously. An unpredictable set of circumstances must be met with insight and practicality. Don't let anyone cost you financially or emotionally. An empty promise will set you back. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Enjoy the moment. Indulge in creative projects or pastimes. Focus on you and your personal goals. Embrace and enhance your relationships with others. Reflect on your beliefs, and make adjustments that suit your current situation and future. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Creative accounting will help you solve a financial problem. Don't count on someone to do the work for you. Be responsible for your position and lot in life, and do whatever it takes to make changes that will send you in a positive direction. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be attracted to organizations that offer clout or help reaching your goals. Don't feel you must make a large donation in order to impress the people around you. Hands-on help will show your leadership ability and help seal a deal. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Caution will be required while communicating or disagreeing with anyone in a position of authority. Focus on money and being responsible with the way you spend and invest. Favorable changes at home are apparent if you recycle and reuse. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Re-evaluate the past and you will get a better idea of the direction you should head now. Money matters should be your prime concern. Don't allow someone who is unpredictable or excessive to alter your plans or encourage a poor choice. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are loyal, trustworthy and helpful. You aspire to do your best.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

4		9	1							
2				4		6	8			
8			7		3					
		6				7				
			6		5			1		
	1	7		8					4	
		3								
						4	9		3	

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	4	3	9	8	1	5	7	6
9	5	8	6	7	2	1	4	3
6	1	7	3	4	5	2	9	8
4	7	5	1	2	3	8	6	9
8	2	1	7	9	6	4	3	5
3	6	9	8	5	4	7	1	2
5	8	6	4	1	9	3	2	7
1	3	2	5	6	7	9	8	4
7	9	4	2	3	8	6	5	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY

Solution: 9 letters

T	D	O	W	N	B	U	R	S	T	N	E	V	E	T
P	E	L	P	W	A	T	E	R	E	T	L	E	H	S
U	L	M	E	T	S	A	C	E	R	O	F	L	P	I
D	A	A	P	I	P	O	U	R	I	N	G	R	A	M
D	Y	T	I	E	H	C	S	U	H	A	I	C	F	
L	S	S	H	T	R	S	R	T	U	N	S	A	T	L
E	N	E	Y	G	N	A	D	A	G	E	M	S	I	O
S	U	R	K	O	I	E	T	N	G	P	P	L	V	W
B	S	M	S	N	H	L	R	U	I	O	L	I	E	
L	R	A	B	I	B	S	A	R	R	W	A	P	T	R
O	E	O	N	R	N	G	E	T	O	E	Y	P	I	S
S	W	S	H	G	E	D	S	R	O	T	I	E	E	O
S	O	A	K	E	D	L	O	W	F	E	N	R	S	G
O	H	C	N	E	R	D	L	O	U	D	G	Y	R	G
M	S	T	O	O	B	N	I	A	R	H	E	A	V	Y

© 2012 Universal Uclick. www.wonderword.com. Join us on Facebook.

Activities, Bibs, Blossom, Camp, Coat, Damp, Delays, Downburst, Dranch, Events, Fall, Flowers, Forecast, Fresh, Gauges, Hall, Heavy, Indoor, Light, Loud, Mist, Nature, Playing, Pouring, Puddles, Rain Boots, Rainbow, Rest, Sang, Seasons, Shelter, Showers, Sky, Slippery, Soaked, Soggy, Sports, Spring, Temperature, Torrential, Umbrella, Water, Windshield

Yesterday's Answer: Athlete

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT Solution: Feeling on top of the world

DPA CAR MART
We're buying '95 & Up used cars!
Transaction only within 30 mins.

Call 287-8688 or visit
DPA CAR MART in San Antonio

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as...
\$29.99
without Insurance
Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
\$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
Some conditions may apply

R.E.A.I. INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
Job Vacancy Announcement
MASSEUSE
\$5.55/hour • At least 2 years work experience.
CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR
\$1,000 to \$1,100/month
At least 5 years work experience.
Must be a College level in Civil Engineering.
Email resume to remmp96950@yahoo.com
or call 233-6160

JOB OPENING - 4 COOKS
Expert in cooking all kind of Japanese food (sashimi, sushi, shabushabu) and others. \$5.55 - 6.00 / HOUR
If interested send resume to
PACIFIC SUNRISE CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 504972, SAIPAN, MP 96950
Tel#: 233-7000

PAPAGO HEIGHTS RENTAL
P.O. BOX 7424 SVRB, SAIPAN, MP 96950
EXECUTIVE HOUSES FOR RENT
3 BEDROOMS, 2 BEDROOMS, FULL BATH, SEMI OR FULLY FURNISHED, CARPORT, LAUNDRY ROOM, TERRACE, AND PANORAMIC VIEW. LOCATED IN PAPAGO
CALL ROY M. PANGELINAN AT (670) 256-7767

Century Tours is looking for qualified U.S. workers to fill the following position:
Operations Clerk (1) — Qualifications: At least a high school graduate or GED. Must be prepared to handle multiple work assignments at the same time. Must have strong oral and written communication skills in the Chinese language. Must have average oral and written communication skills in the English language. Must be proficient in typing, math, grammar and computers. Successful candidate must be able to handle room bookings and or activity setups as it relates to tourist needs. Must be able to work flexible hours and during weekends and holidays, per Company needs.

Application forms can be picked up at the Human Resources of Century Tours located at the Kanoa Resort in Beach Road, Susupe. Deadline for submission is Tuesday, September 25th, 2012.

EMPLOYMENT

One - Oprtns Manager - \$10.00/hr. w/ 5 yrs. Exp. Excellent knwldg & skill, responsible for the daily oprtns & bldg maint. Do cost estimation & preparation of proposal & negotia-tion w/ clients.

Two – Construction/Maint. - \$5.55/hr. w/ 3 yrs. exp. Extensive knwldg in masonry, plumbing, electrical & carpentry. Can read blueprint & can work w/o supervision. Able to lift heavy blocks & flexible in work sched.

Send resume to: maniacop_lydia@yahoo.com. GMA Corp. dba NMI Constructor

1-All Around Beautician. Modern Hair Salon & Barber Shop. San Jose. Call Mau at 234-1440.

Alexander Inc. is looking for an Accountant. Must have at least 5 years of experience. Knowledge in QuickBooks & MS Excel is an advantage. Call 234-5117.

Manufacturing and architectural firm is looking for an **Accountant**.
Selected applicant must be available to work immediately.

Experience in inventory accounting a plus.
Bring your resume to RR& Associates at Ground Floor, D' Torres Building, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan or email to kgci77@gmail.com.
Applicants may be tested.
The position vacancy will close on October 05, 2012.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$450-\$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. \$450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Open: 9/17/12
Close: 9/21/12

Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc.
Airport Road, Saipan, MP 96950

■ 1 Baker
■ 1 Production Supervisor
■ 1 Storage/Procurement Coordinator (Warehouseman)

Applications may be picked up at HMBI accounting office.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF
MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of	MARGARITA ADA GAZA, Deceased.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0204	NOTICE
--------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------	--------

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Margarita Ada Gaza, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on November 13, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Margarita Ada Gaza, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: September 13, 2012

/s/ Clerk of Court

WHATZIT?
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
HUNCH GLOBE
www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper



Call 235-NEWS

Norman: Tiger intimidated by McIlroy



ATLANTA (AP)—Greg Norman says Rory McIlroy has surpassed Tiger Woods, and

Woods knows it, even to the point of being intimidated by McIlroy, according to a FoxSports.com article.

Norman says it's a natural changing of the guard, like Jack Nicklaus supplanting Arnold Palmer atop the sport, Norman replacing Nicklaus and Woods surpassing Norman.

"You've got to beat the guy you're taking over from to feel that you're the top guy, and Rory's starting to do that now," Norman told FoxSports.com.

Norman said Woods seems to be friendlier with McIlroy than he's been with rivals in the past, which Norman interprets as a sign of insecurity.

"What I'm seeing is that Tiger's really intimidated by Rory," he told FoxSports.com. "When have you ever seen him intimidated by another player? Never. But I think he knows his time's up and that's normal. These things tend to go in 15-year cycles."

Norman pointed to Woods' recent putting struggles.

"Look at Tiger's putting stroke," Norman said. "It used to be rock solid. Now, it changes from Fridays to Saturdays. And that comes from pushing too hard, wanting to win that major so badly."

"Tiger's pushing himself harder and harder now because



Rory McIlroy, left, of Northern Ireland, shakes hands with Tiger Woods after they both birdied the 18th hole during the second round of the BMW Championship PGA golf tournament at Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, Ind., Friday, Sept. 7, 2012.

he's not the force he used to be, and he knows it."

Meanwhile, Jim Furyk says McIlroy is a marked man at the Ryder Cup.

McIlroy has won three of his last four tournaments, starting

with a record eight-shot win in the PGA Championship for his second major. He is the favorite again this week at the Tour Championship, where he is the top seed in the chase for the \$10 million FedEx Cup bonus.

The Ryder Cup is next week at Medinah, and while McIlroy is one of 12 players for Europe, he has set himself apart.

"We're not just playing one individual, though, we're playing 12," Furyk said Tuesday at

East Lake. "Obviously, he's a marked man. He's the No. 1 player in the world. He's going to garner all the attention, as well he should. He's played phenomenal this year. ... He's right now the present day Ti-

ger Woods, where everyone's eyes are on him. Tiger is still Tiger. Everyone would love to see that pairing in the Ryder Cup."

McIlroy went 1-1-2 in his Ryder Cup debut two years ago at Wales, scratching out a critical halve against Stewart Cink on the last day of singles. He left his first shot in a bunker by the 18th green, then got up-and-down for par.

Woods was a marked man from his first trip to the Ryder Cup in 1997 at Valderama, having won the Masters by 12 shots and establishing himself as the player to beat. He went 1-3-1 in his Ryder Cup debut and didn't have a winning record in any Ryder Cup until 2006 at The K Club.

Even though he could only earn one point, there was a feeling that keeping Woods from a winning mark was key to beating the Americans.

McIlroy was criticized in some European corners for referring to the Ryder Cup as an "exhibition" before he had played in his first match. He was partners with Graeme McDowell in all three of his team matches, going 1-1-1.

McIlroy has won the last two FedEx Cup playoff events with an average score of 66.5.

"It's not going to be difficult for him to flip the switch and go into the Ryder Cup," Furyk said. "It's a whole new dynamic, a whole different type of game in match play. But he's the best player in the world right now, and he's going to be the toughest guy to beat."



CLEVELAND (AP)—One official was pulled from duty because he's a fan.

Another negated a touchdown without ever throwing a penalty flag. Several others had difficulty with basic rules.

Upon further review, the NFL's replacement officials came up short in Week 2.

Coaches and players around the league are losing patience and speaking out against the fill-in officials following a slew of questionable calls in the games Sunday and Monday night.

Some players are even joking about dipping into their own pockets to settle the contract dispute and get the regular officials back on the field.

"I don't know what they're arguing about, but I got a couple of (million) on it, so let's try to make it work," Washington defensive back DeAngelo Hall said, kidding, on Monday. "I'm sure the locker room could pot up some cash and try to help the cause out."

The NFL locked out the regular officials in June after their contract expired. Negotiations with the NFL Referees Association broke down several times during the summer, including just before the season, and the league is using replacements for the first time since 2001.

The results have been mixed.

NFL replacement officials taking heat

Just hours before kickoff Sunday, the NFL removed side judge Brian Stropolo from the New Orleans-Carolina game because it was discovered he's a Saints fan.

Then came the on-field problems.

In Philadelphia's 24-23 win over Baltimore, two game-altering calls left quarterback Joe Flacco and linebacker Ray Lewis fuming, though it appeared on replay that both calls were accurate. That didn't make them any less controversial.

Flacco's scoring pass to receiver Jacoby Jones in the fourth quarter was called back because of offensive pass interference. The official who made the call didn't throw the yellow flag, though he immediately signaled a penalty.

"I might sound like a little bit of a baby here," Flacco said, "but for them to make that call, I think, was a little crazy."

There was confusion later during Philadelphia's go-ahead drive. First, the two-minute warning occurred twice. Then, quarterback Michael Vick's forward pass was called a fumble inside the Ravens 5. It was ruled incomplete following a replay, and Vick scored on the next play after a few

anxious moments.

"It's extra stress when you have to sit there and wait," Vick said. "The one thing you don't want to do, you don't want to put the game in the officials' hands."

Lewis, like many players around the league, has seen enough.

"The time is now," he said. "How much longer are we going to keep going through this whole process? I don't have the answer. I just know across the league teams and the league are being affected by it. It's not just this game, it's all across the league. And so if they want the league to have the same reputation it's always had, they'll address the problem. Get the regular referees in here and let the games play themselves out."

"We already have controversy enough with the regular refs calling the plays."

The problems continued Monday night when Peyton Manning led the Denver Broncos against the Atlanta Falcons.

The officials missed a call on Denver's first touchdown, ruling that Demaryius Thomas was pushed out of bounds. The replay clearly showed he got both feet down, and the call was

reversed after a review.

The Falcons' first score also was reversed, this time with the officials ruling, with help from a replay, that Michael Turner actually landed short of the goal line. He wound up scoring on the next play.

In the second half, the officials got mixed up on where to place the ball after a defensive holding penalty on Champ Bailey. The crowd booed while the officials conferred, finally moving it a few yards forward to the proper spot.

It was those sort of delays that helped the game drag on for nearly 3 1/2 hours.

Despite the public outcry, the league backed the replacement crews, a collection of small-college officials who have been studying NFL rules since the summer.

"Officiating is never perfect. The current officials have made great strides and are performing admirably under unprecedented scrutiny and great pressure," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said in an email to The Associated Press. "As we do every season, we will work to improve officiating and are confident that the game officials will show continued improvement."

While some of the mistakes

on Sunday were judgment calls - such as a pass interference penalty on Pittsburgh defensive back Ike Taylor in which he appeared to miss a New York Jets receiver—the more egregious errors appear to be misinterpretations of rules.

In St. Louis' 31-28 victory over Washington, Rams coach Jeff Fisher challenged a second-quarter fumble by running back Steven Jackson near the goal line and it was overturned. The Rams ended up kicking a field goal, which was the margin of victory.

The problem there was a coach is not allowed to challenge a play when a turnover is ruled on the field. It should've been an automatic 15-yard penalty on Fisher. Also, if Fisher threw the red challenge flag before the replay official initiated the review, then a review is not allowed and the Redskins would've kept the ball.

"I just think that they're just so inconsistent that it definitely has an effect on the games," Redskins linebacker London Fletcher said. "You were hoping it would get better, but everybody is having to dealing with it."

In the Cleveland-Cincinnati game, the clock continued to

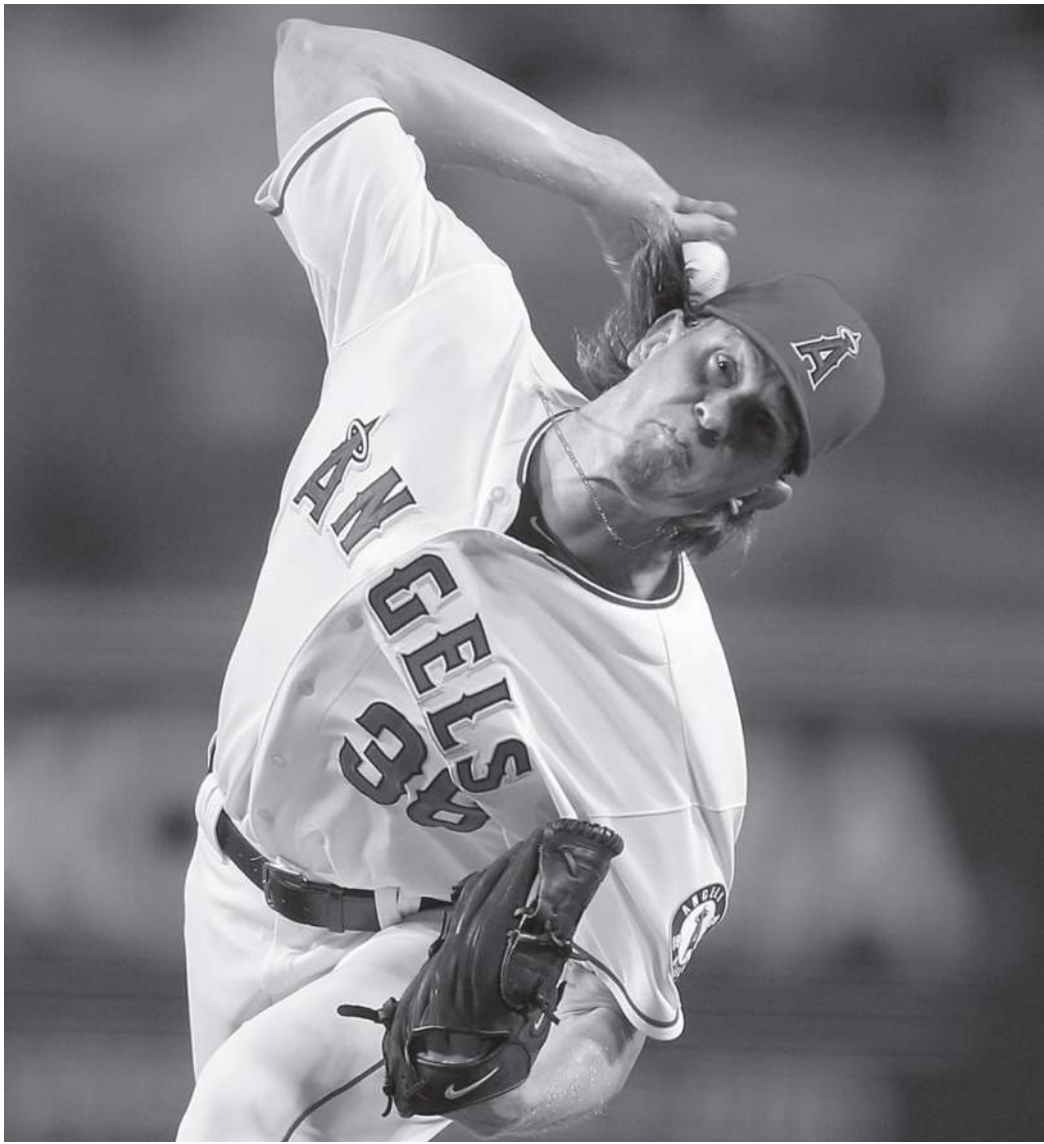
run after an incomplete pass by Bengals quarterback Andy Dalton in the second quarter. A total of 29 seconds ticked off, and the Browns ended the half with the ball at their 29. Perhaps an extra half-minute could've helped the drive. The Bengals won 34-27.

"Missed calls & bad calls are going to happen," Browns linebacker Scott Fujita, an NFLPA executive council member, wrote on Twitter. "That's part of the deal & we can all live with it. But not knowing all the rules and major procedural errors (like allowing the clock to run after an incomplete pass) are completely unacceptable. Enough already."

The Colts were incorrectly told at the end of their game that accepting an offside penalty would start the clock. So, quarterback Andrew Luck spiked the ball to stop it and set up Adam Vinatieri's 53-yard field goal that gave Indianapolis a 23-20 win over Minnesota.

Feisty play was a common theme around the league, as well. Players are seemingly getting away with being more physical, especially after the whistle. Officials appear reluctant to call personal fouls, opting instead for offsetting unsportsmanlike penalties that won't dissuade guys from going after each other as much.

Angels smack Rangers, stay in playoff chase



Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Jered Weaver throws to a Texas Rangers batter during the first inning of a baseball game in Anaheim, Calif., Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2012. AP

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Jered Weaver spent a long stretch of his 100th career victory in the batting cage and the tunnel below Angel Stadium, playing catch to keep his arm warm while the Los Angeles Angels batted around in an eight-run fourth inning.

Weaver didn't lose his rhythm, and the Angels kept flowing toward a playoff berth.

Weaver pitched seven innings of six-hit ball in his 18th win of the season, Chris Iannetta had a two-run single and scored on a wild pitch during that crazy rally, and the Angels moved up in the AL postseason race with an 11-3 victory over the Texas Rangers on Tuesday night.

Weaver (18-4) gave up third-inning homers to Mike Napoli and Ian Kinsler, but got a huge cushion from his teammates to ease into a tie with Tampa Bay's David Price for the AL lead in wins. The ace right-hander, who has spent his entire career in Anaheim, matched his single-season high for victories and became just the sixth pitcher to win 100 games with the club.

"It's an honor to do it all in an Angels uniform," said Weaver, a Los Angeles-area native. "I wouldn't have it any other way. Hopefully these fans see 200 more, but I don't know. We'll see what happens."

Tigers 12, Athletics 2

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera homered twice, including an eighth-inning grand slam, and the Detroit Tigers had no trouble overcoming an early injury to right-hander Max Scherzer in a 12-2 rout of the Oakland Athletics.

Cabrera matched a career high with six RBIs and now has 40 homers on the season — also a career best. Prince Fielder and Jhonny Peralta added home runs for the Tigers, who remained three games behind the first-place Chicago White Sox in the AL Central.

White Sox 3, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Gavin Floyd pitched seven crisp innings, Alex Rios hit a tiebreaking homer in the seventh and the Sox beat the Royals for their fifth consecutive win.

Alejandro De Aza and Gordon Beckham also went deep for AL Central-leading Chicago, which maintained a three-game advantage over Detroit.

Floyd (10-10), who was making his second start since coming off the disabled with an elbow flexor strain, gave up two runs in the first inning and nothing after that.

Red Sox 7, Rays 5

In St. Petersburg, Felix Doubront limited Tampa Bay's sputtering offense to one hit over six innings and the Boston Red Sox rallied for a victory that dealt another blow to the Rays' fading playoff hopes.

Jacoby Ellsbury, Dustin Pedroia, James Loney, Jarrod Saltalamacchia and Ryan Lavarnway drove in runs for the Red Sox, who beat their AL East rivals for the second straight night, extending Tampa Bay's losing streak to four games and dropping the third-place Rays six games behind the division-leading New York Yankees.

Twins 6, Indians 5, 12 innings

In Cleveland, Darin Mastroianni scored the go-ahead run from second base on an infield hit in a two-run 12th inning and the Twins tied the Indians for fourth place in the AL Central.

Mastroianni singled with two outs and stole second off Scott Maine (1-1), the team-record 10th pitcher used by Cleveland. Alexi Casilla then poked a ball between first and second that second baseman Jason Kipnis fielded in short right. But Casilla was safe when first baseman Matt LaPorta fielded Kipnis' throw, but was not on the bag.

Orioles 4, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Taylor Teagarden stroked a pinch-hit RBI single to right in the 18th inning to help give the Baltimore Orioles a 4-2 comeback victory over the Seattle Mariners.

The win allowed the Orioles (84-64) to pull within a percentage point of the Yankees (83-63) for the lead in the AL East. The Yankees were rained out Tuesday and will play a split double-header with Toronto on Wednesday.

Baltimore maintained a three-game lead over the Los Angeles Angels for the wild-card spot. The Angels beat Texas in Anaheim Tuesday, 11-3.

Brewers 6, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Yovani Gallardo gave up just two

hits over 6 2-3 innings and the surging Milwaukee Brewers dropped the weary Pirates, 6-0.

Gallardo (16-8) struck out six and walked four to win his eighth straight decision as Milwaukee moved in front of fading Pittsburgh in the jumbled National League wild-card race. The Brewers remained 2 1/2 games back of the Cardinals, who beat Houston 4-1.

Ryan Braun had two hits, drove in a run and stole three bases for the Brewers, who have won six of seven. Milwaukee's seven stolen bases were the most by the franchise since it moved to the National League in 1998.

Cardinals 4, Astros 1

In St. Louis, Kyle Lohse threw seven scoreless innings for his 15th victory and contributed an RBI double as the Cardinals beat the Astros to stay in front for the second NL wild card.

Fernando Abad (0-5) had a career-best six strikeouts in the Astros' 100th loss. They're 8-8 this month under interim manager Tony DeFrancesco and need nine wins in the final 14 games to avoid topping last season's franchise-record 106 losses.

Jon Jay had two hits and two RBIs for the Cardinals, coming off a 2-5 trip but with a favorable upcoming schedule with the next eight against lowly Houston and Chicago.

Giants 6, Rockies 3

In San Francisco, Tim Lincecum pitched San Francisco one win closer to an NL West crown as the Giants lowered their magic number to clinch the division to seven.

Lincecum (10-14) struck out six and walked two in 6 1-3 scoreless innings on a day the second-place Los Angeles Dodgers were postponed by rain in Washington.

Marco Scutaro had three singles, drove in a run and scored twice and Xavier Nady had two RBI singles for the Giants (85-63), who moved a season-high 22 games over .500.

Angel Pagan extended his own San Francisco record with an RBI triple in the eighth, his major league-leading 14th.

Marlins 4, Braves 3, 10 innings

In Miami, Jose Reyes hit a two-out RBI single in the 10th inning, and Miami overcame an awful ninth inning to snap Atlanta's four-game winning streak.

With one out in the 10th, pinch-hitter Rob Brantly was walked by Cory Gearrin (0-1), and Gorkys Hernandez was hit by a pitch. Following a strikeout, Reyes hit a blooper that fell in front of a diving Jason Heyward in right field, and Brantly scored without a play.

Atlanta lost to Miami for only the fourth time in 14 meetings.

The Braves rallied from a 3-0 deficit in the ninth to tie the game. Heyward doubled to start the inning against Steve Cishek, and Chipper Jones walked on a 3-2 pitch.

Reds 3, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Homer Bailey pitched effectively into the eighth inning, Ryan Hanigan hit a three-run double and Cincinnati moved closer to the NL Central title.

The Reds' Dusty Baker managed his 3,000th major league game, and Cincinnati reduced its magic number to four over the Cardinals to clinch the division.

Bailey (12-9) took a two-hit shutout into the eighth before Darwin Barney had his second single of the night and pinch-hitter Bryan LaHair hit an RBI double to make it 3-1.

Diamondbacks 3, Padres 2

In Phoenix, Ian Kennedy pitched eight innings to earn his 14th victory, Miguel Montero drove in two runs with two doubles and the Diamondbacks finally got a home win against the Padres.

San Diego was 6-0 in Arizona this season before dropping the series opener.

Kennedy (14-11) allowed one run and seven hits. A 21-game winner in 2011, Kennedy is 8-3 in his last 12 starts.

Eric Stults (6-3) gave up three runs and five hits in six innings in his first loss since June 3.

Josh Hamilton will have many takers

ANAHEIM, California (AP)—Josh Hamilton doesn't know where he'll play next season. That, or he won't say. Probably the former.

Josh Hamilton has already hit 42 home runs this season, 10 more than his previous high. He's been going pretty steady at this one-day-at-a-time thing, and it's served him well enough. None of it is perfect, of course. But Hamilton has a way about him that convinces us he'll get it right again, that he'll be the best man he can be today, and then maybe knock out a couple hits and run down a ball in the gap.

Tomorrow? That's for tomorrow. His agent and the Texas Rangers have kicked around some very general ideas for what might be next, but those conversations haven't included Hamilton, and that's by design. It's still today, after all, and with any luck their plan is to ride a bunch of todays into early November.

The reasonable assumption is that the Rangers will find a way to keep Hamilton in their outfield for another four, five, six seasons, and that Hamilton would have a preference to stay. The organization and the manager and the player seem to fit, as do the player and the city. The only guarantee in free agency, however, is there are no guarantees.

For one, there is no other Hamilton in this winter's class. Not even close. For another, there are very few Hamiltons anywhere out there.

So, he can be part of Tom Ricketts' plan in Chicago, or Dave Montgomery's rebuild in Philadelphia, or Peter Angelos' transformation in Baltimore, or John Henry's apology in Boston, or Ted Lerner's world dominance in D.C. Could he be Jerry Reinsdorf's momentum in Chicago? Or Larry Baer's offense in San Francisco? Arte Moreno's revenge in Anaheim? Mike Ilitch's accessory in Detroit? Liberty Mutual's subsidiary in Atlanta? Hank Steinbrenner's luxury-tax buster in New York?

Hamilton could be any of those things. All of them.

He shrugged.

"Wherever I go," Hamilton said Tuesday afternoon, "God's going to be there, my wife's going to be there, my kids are going to be there and Shayne's going to be there."

Shayne is Shayne Kelley. He's been called an accountability partner, a counselor and a staff assistant. And he's a reminder that Hamilton comes with more than just his God, family and five tools.

Whether Hamilton will be any more sentimental than that is difficult to say. The Rangers have stood by him during some trying personal moments, and Hamilton has repaid them with his bat and glove. The relationship has worked, which doesn't mean a new one in, say, Baltimore wouldn't. But, there exists the opinion Hamilton is fragile in that way and therefore better off cocooned in Arlington. Hamilton himself seems to believe that's a load of stuff.

"People talk about, 'It's complicated,' " he said. "I don't get it. I provide a service. I get paid for it."

Now 31 years old, Hamilton still rates as one of baseball's most talented players. The return for the Rangers is again a player who is MVP worthy, who this season will play about 150 games and with two weeks remaining has 42 home runs and 123 RBI, in spite of an entire month he spent battling tobacco withdrawal and therefore, he said, batting less than .200. He is 31 years old and, according to one veteran scout, remains the player he described as "in the top two or three most talented ballplayers I've ever seen," adding, "He still gets down the line in 4.1 or 4.2 [seconds] and still finishes every play in the outfield. He's the same guy."



**Norman:
Tiger
intimidated
by McIlroy**

21

Saipan Tribune Sports

24 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

**Angels smack
Rangers, stay in
playoff chase**



22

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Cuki brings home two gold medals



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Trench Tech's Cuki Alvarez, right, poses with his student Jose Mafnas after winning two gold medals in the Guam Masters Games' BJJ competition held at the Leo Palace last Saturday.

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Trench Tech's Cuki "The Flying Cockroach" Alvarez bagged two gold medals in the Guam Masters Games' Brazilian jiu-jitsu competition held at the Leo Palace's Grand Ballroom in Yona last Saturday.

Proa eases past Ol'Aces

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Mariana Resort-Proa routed the Ol'Aces, 61-29, in the U20 division game in the 2012 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The victory was second in as many games for Proa, while the Ol'Aces remain winless after two tries.

Proa wasted no time from the tip and doubled up its opponents, 18-9, after the opening period. Ichitaro Faisao led Proa's early breakaway, scoring 7 points.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Proa's Shane Diaz, center, hustles down a loose ball before it goes out of bounds during their game against the Ol'Aces in the U20 division of the Rotary caging last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

TRENCIH TECIH

Alvarez bested five other 35A master age division competitors both in the Gi and No-Gi welterweight (161-169lbs) divisions. A Gi is a traditional

See **CUKI** on **Page 23**

Faisao sat out in the second quarter, but teammate Shane Diaz took the reigns in his absence, adding 8 markers to push Proa further ahead at halftime, 32-18.

Derrick Olopai managed 6 points for the Ol'Aces in the first two frames, but the group had a lot of ground to make up in the second half.

The Ol'Aces tried to mount a comeback after the break, but were stuffed to 3 points in the third quarter, as Proa trudged on, 48-21, heading into the final 10 minutes of play.

Faisao and Diaz teamed up for 11 points in the third quarter and Proa never looked back, as Frank Mettao and Jacob Palacios stepped up in the fourth, combining for 9 points to put the final touches on the runaway victory.

See **PROA** on **Page 23**

Mobil stays perfect; Hoops recover

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Mobil and Oceanside Bar Hoopaholics downed separate opponents

in contrasting fashions to notch their third win in the 2012 Emon Lodge 179 Basketball League-Docomo Brotherhood Cup last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Mobil whipped Fong's Bakery in the first game, 75-61, while the Hoops eked out a 56-53 triumph over Armatech in the second match of the night. With its victory, Mobil (3-0) grabbed a share of the lead with Pacific Islands Club, while the Hoops are in solo second with their 3-1 slate. Armatech is still winless in three games, while Fong's fell to a 1-2 card.

Hoops, which suffered a heartbreaking 67-69 loss to Mobil last week after collapsing in the homestretch, this time delivered in the crucial moments of the game with

Trevor Ogomoro drilling the killer triple.

The match was tied last at 53-all, after Jawn Joyner connected on a triple, with less than 30 seconds remaining on the clock. Ogomoro, who missed the entire first half



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mobil's Errol Peredo eludes the defense of Fong's Bakery's Ezra Caro during the fourth quarter of their game in the Emon Lodge caging last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

of the game, answered with his own trey in front of their bench to give the Hoops the lead, 56-53.

Armatech was then left with 5 seconds to pull up for a game-tying shot, but Joyner's

See **MOBIL** on **Page 23**

Emon Lodge upholds ban on Wesley

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Organizers of the ongoing 2012 Emon Lodge 179 Basketball League-Docomo Brotherhood Cup stood by its decision to ban Hi-Five/Kevin's Department Store forward Tim Wesley from playing in the 10-team competition.

League commissioner Ed Manalili in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday said the league's technical committee considered Wesley's case closed, saying Emon lodge has the right to deny entry to any player as per the tournament ground rules.

Wesley, in an email forward to *Saipan Tribune*, requested an explanation about his suspension from the league, as he was informed of the ban too late, causing "chaotic and frantic adjustment to the team's roster."

"I formally request an expla-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tim Wesley, left, is seen here defending Noni Saipan's Bon Tamayo during a playoff game in the local league at the Garapan Basketball Court.

nation on the ban imposed on me by the board of the Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood Basketball League. It is very disappointing for me to learn

See **EMON** on **Page 23**